

*March 1796*

*Sept 19 1794 - March 19 1796*

*C.S.F. 26*

# VOTES

OF THE HONOURABLE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHAMA ISLANDS.



NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE:

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V O T E S

OF THE HONOURABLE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHAMA ISLANDS.

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*Friday, 19th September, 1794.*

THE following persons having been elected and returned to serve as members of the general assembly, (agreeably to writs of election issued by his excellency the governor), for the Bahama Islands, met according to his excellency's proclamation :

Thomas Forbes,	}	esquires, for the Town of Nassau.
Stephen Haven,		
Alexander Begbie,		
Thomas North,	}	esquires, for the Western District.
John Cunningham,		
Tiddeman Carr, esquire, for the Eastern District.		
John Kelfall,	}	esquires, for Exuma Islands.
John Kerr,		
Charles Dames,		
John Stiles,	}	esquires, for Andros Island.
Joseph Hunter,		
John O'Halloran,	}	esquires, for the Island of Eleuthera.
Samuel Mackey,		
Anthony Roxburgh,	}	esquires, for Harbour Island.
Thomas Darrel,		
Robert Rumer,		
John-Mullryne Tattnall, esquire, for Cat Island.		
William Wyll,	}	esquires, for Long Island.
Thomas Roker,		

Mr. Kelfall,

Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Dames, waited on his excellency the governour, and acquainted him that a sufficient number of members were met to proceed to business; who being returned reported, his excellency the governour was pleased to say, that he would send two of the members of his majesty's council to administer the usual oaths for the qualification of the members.

The honourable Robert Hunt, and the honourable John Miller, esquires, two members of his Majesty's council, attended accordingly, and administered the usual oaths to the following members: Thomas Forbes, Stephen Haven, Alexander Begbie, John Mullryne Tattall, John Kerr, Charles Dames, John Kelfall, John Stiles, Joseph Hunter, Thomas North, John Cunningham, John O'Halloran, Samuel Mackey, Tiddeman Carr, Thomas Darrel, and Robert Rumer.

The members of the council being withdrawn, the members of the general assembly who had been sworn, took their seats accordingly.

A message from his excellency the governour, by the public secretary:

*Gentlemen,*

*I am commanded by his excellency the governour to desire that you will immediately proceed to the choice of a speaker.*

The members accordingly proceeded to the choice of a speaker, when John Kelfall, esquire, was unanimously elected.

The house proceeded to the choice of a clerk, when Peter Edwards, esquire, was unanimously chosen, and sworn in accordingly.

The house was pleased to appoint Alexander Kidd to the offices of messenger and doorkeeper.

Ordered, That Mr. Forbes, Mr. Kerr, Mr. O'Halloran, and Mr. Dames, do wait on his excellency the governour, to acquaint him that the house had made choice of a speaker, and request to be informed when his excellency would be pleased that the house should attend him, to present the speaker elect for his excellency's approbation; who being returned, reported the delivery of the message, and that his excellency was pleased to say, that he would receive the house on Tuesday next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that the rules of the house of the last session be read; which were read accordingly.

Ordered, That the said rules be the standing rules and orders of the present session, until the same shall be altered or amended.

Mr. Kerr moved, that the house do immediately take into consideration the writ of election and return for Long Island, the said writ and return being on the table before the house, and the members appearing thereby returned, attending to take their seats.

The house divided, the Nays went forth.

Ayes, 8: Mr. Kerr, Mr. Rumer, Mr. Tattall, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Darrel, Mr. Forbes, and Mr. Haven.

Noes,



Noes, 7: Mr. Carr, Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mackey, Mr. Stiles, and Mr. North.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that the writ and return for Long Island be read; which were read accordingly.

Mr. Kerr moved, that Mr. Wyllly be heard, either by himself or counsel, in support of the return of the writ for Long Island, immediately.

Mr. O'Halloran moved the following amendment; that the words "on tuesday next," be inserted in the motion, instead of "immediately."

The original motion being put, and the house having divided, Resolved in the affirmative.—Ayes, 8. Noes, 7.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly be heard at the bar accordingly.

Mr. Wyllly having been heard, and being withdrawn, Mr. Kerr moved the following resolution:

It appearing to this house, that the returning officer appointed to hold an election for Long Island, hath executed the writ of election, and returned William Wyllly and Thomas Roker, esquires, duly elected; which writ and return were delivered into the secretary's office before the meeting of the assembly, and is now before this house: Resolved, That the said William Wyllly and Thomas Roker do take their seats, and be sworn in as members of this house, reserving the rights of all other persons to petition against them, upon the grounds of an undue return.

The house having divided, resolved in the affirmative.—Ayes, 9. Noes, 6

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Roker be furnished with copies of the above resolution, and that they be summoned to take their seats at the next meeting of the house, on Tuesday next.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Saturday, 20th September, 1794.*

The house met according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning next, at ten o'clock.

*Monday, 22d September, 1794.*

The house met according to adjournment, and adjourned until to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Tuesday, 23d September, 1794.*

The house met according to adjournment.

Resolved, That the house do wait on his excellency the governor, agreeable to his excellency's message of Friday last, to present the speaker elect.

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor; and being returned, the speaker elect reported from the chair, that

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having been presented to his excellency the governour, he was pleased to approve of the choice the house had made ; and his excellency had been pleased to make a speech, of which the following is a copy ; and which the speaker read in the chair, and was afterwards ordered to be read by the clerk, viz.

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*A period of near seven years having elapsed since my arrival in this country, I thought proper to dissolve the late assembly, in order to give the people at large an opportunity of consulting their sentiments, with respect to the choice of their representatives in the present. I feel happy in meeting you this first time ; as I am persuaded that your own inclinations, super-added to the critical situation of the times, will operate to produce harmony, zeal, and good understanding among you. The revenue bills being near expiring, you will, of course, make the framing of others among the first objects of your deliberations.*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*During the recess, a considerable expence has been incurred for purposes, which I trust you will find to have been indispensably necessary, and which have answered the desirable end of putting these islands in a respectable state of defence, both by sea and land. The accounts and other documents will be immediately laid before you ; and upon inspection you will observe that the utmost care and æconomy have been used in the appropriation of the money necessary for the above purposes.*

*I shall also order the estimate of the expences requisite for the current year, to be laid before you ; and I rely upon your zeal and abilities, for providing an adequate and sufficient supply for the service of the country.*

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*Actuated by the purest motives of attachment to my sovereign, and sincere wishes for the happiness and prosperity of this country, I trust you will ever find me ready to co-operate with you in every measure, that may be deemed necessary to the general welfare of these islands.*

*Government house, September 23, 1794.*

*DUNMORE.*

Mr. O'Halloran moved, seconded by Mr. Kerr, that a committee be appointed to prepare an humble address to his excellency the governour, in answer to his excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran and Mr. Kerr be a committee to prepare and bring in the same, and that they do report to the house to-morrow.

Ordered, That his excellency the governour's speech be published in the gazette, and that the clerk do furnish the printer with a copy for that purpose.

Mr. Kerr moved, that the following message be sent to the council :

*The general assembly having considered William Wyllly and Thomas Roker, esquires, as duly elected members to represent Long Island, they request the council to swear them in accordingly.*

Ordered,



Ordered, That Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Rumer do carry the message, and that Mr. Roker and Mr. Wyly, the new members elect, do attend them to the council, to be sworn in: And being returned, reported the delivery of the message, and that the new members had taken the usual oaths.

Ordered, That Thomas Roker and William Wyly, esquires, do take their seats accordingly.

On motion of Mr. O'Halloran, Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour:

*May it please your excellency,*

*We are ordered by the general assembly to wait on your excellency, and to request you will be pleased to give directions for issuing a writ to choose a representative for the town of Nassau, in the room of John Denniston, esquire, deceased.*

Also the following message:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have elected Peter Edwards, esquire, their clerk.*

Ordered, That Mr. Haven, Mr. North, Mr. Mackey, and Mr. Dames, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the messages; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inspect and examine the present rules of this house, and report any alterations or amendments that may appear necessary.

Ordered, That Mr. Kerr and Mr. O'Halloran be a committee for that purpose.

On motion, Resolved, That the receiver general and treasurer be ordered to lay his books, accounts, and vouchers, before this house, for the inspection thereof, as soon as may be after he is furnished with a copy of this resolution.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire what laws are expired, or are near expiring; and to report such as are proper to be revived or continued, on or before Monday next.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyly and Mr. Tattnall be a committee for that purpose.

On motion, Ordered, That the secretary of the colony do attend this house to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, with all the writs of election and returns of elections for members to serve in the present general assembly, which have not already been by him delivered to the clerk of this house; and that he do also bring with him a docket or schedule of all other writs, which since the 31st day of July last past have been issued for the election of members to serve in this present assembly, and which have not been returned.

Ordered, That the clerk do furnish the secretary with a copy of the order of this house.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Wednesday,*

Wednesday, 24th September, 1794.

The house met according to adjournment.

Mr O'Halloran informed the house, that Anthony Roxburgh, esquire, a member elect for Harbour Island, was attending; and moved, that two members do attend the new member to the council, to be sworn in.

Ordered, That Mr. Forbes and Mr. Begbie be a committee for that purpose; who being returned, reported that the new member had taken the usual oaths.

Ordered, That Mr. Roxburgh do take his seat accordingly.

Mr. Chrystie, the public secretary, having attended, agreeably to order, informed the house, that they had in possession all the writs that were returned into his office; that information had been given in the gazette of their being issued; that the original writ for Abaco, tested the 1st of August last, and returnable the 9th of September, directed to Martin Weatherford, esquire, was brought back and delivered into the secretary's office, without any return thereon; and that his excellency the governor had ordered another writ to be issued, for the reasons assigned in the public advertisement, which was accordingly done on the 4th instant, directed to John Carmichael, esquire; that his excellency had ordered another writ to be issued for Long Island, which was accordingly done on the 15th of September instant, directed to George Bunch, esquire, and delivered to Edward Lane, master of the sloop Two Friends, to be forwarded, which Edward Lane was still in town.

The secretary produced the notices published in the gazette, referred to by him; and those respecting the last writs for Abaco and Long Island were as follow, viz.

Bahama Islands. } Secretary's Office, September 4, 1794.  
New Providence. }

The writ of election issued from this office on the 4th of last month, for the election of three members, to represent the island of Abaco in the ensuing general assembly, and directed to Martin Weatherford, esquire, one of his majesty's justices of the peace, being rendered useless by the indisposition of the said magistrate preventing his holding the election; notice is hereby given, that in obedience to the orders of his excellency the governor, another writ of election is issued under the great seal of the said islands, for the election of three members to represent the said island of Abaco in the ensuing general assembly; and that the same hath this day been delivered to John Carmichael, esquire, one of his majesty's justices of the peace, for due execution thereof.

Adam Chrystie, secretary.

Bahama Islands, } Secretary's office, September 15, 1794.  
New Providence. }

The writ of election issued from this office on the 7th of last month, for the election of two members to represent the island of Long Island in the ensuing general assembly, and directed to Robert Halliday, esquire, one of his majesty's justices of the peace, "being null and void, from not being returned executed at the time therein directed;" notice is hereby given, that in obedience to the orders of his excellency the governor, another writ of election is issued under the great seal of the said islands, for the election of two members to represent the said island of Long Island in the ensuing general assembly, and that the same hath this day been delivered



vered to Mr. Edward Lane, master of the sloop Two Friends, to be by him forwarded to George Luntz, esquire, one of his majesty's justices of the peace, for due execution thereof.  
Adam Chrystie, secretary.

The secretary being withdrawn, Mr. Kerr moved the following resolution :

Resolved, That it appears to this house, that on the 15th of September instant, a writ of election for Long Island hath issued since the issuing of the original writ tested the 1st of August last, although an election there by virtue of such original writ has taken place, and the members returned have been admitted to their seats by the house.

The house divided. Resolved in the affirmative.

The following resolutions were then put, and carried without a division.

Resolved, That it appears to this house, that the original writ of election for Abaco, directed to Martin Weatherford, esquire, now before this house, and tested the 1st of August last, was delivered into the secretary's office by the honourable John Miller, esquire, on the 3d of September instant, without any return thereon, or any memorandum of the same having been received by or delivered to the returning officer ; and that another writ of election had issued, tested the 3d of September, although the original writ was not returnable until the 9th of the same month.

Resolved, That this house will, with all convenient speed, take into consideration the issuing of the said second writs, as affecting the rights and privileges of the general assembly ; and that until the house determine respecting the same, they will not deem valid any proceedings had or done under them.

Mr. O'Halloran, from the committee appointed to prepare an address to his excellency the governour, in answer to his speech at the opening of the session, reported the same, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

On motion, Resolved, That the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to take his excellency the governour's speech and the address in answer thereto into consideration.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Roker took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair ; and Mr. Roker, from the committee, reported, that the committee had taken the same into consideration, and had made some amendments to the address.

The house took the address with the amendments into consideration, and agreed to the same.

Ordered, That the address be engrossed.

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour :

*May it please your excellency,  
The general assembly beg leave to acquaint you, that they have prepared an humble address to your excellency, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to be attended with the same.*

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Ordered,

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Tattnell, Mr. Tiddeman Carr, and Mr. Darrel, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the message; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof, and that his excellency was pleased to say, he would receive the house with their address on Friday next, at twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

Mr. Kerr moved, that the act intituled, *An act for laying duties on sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, &c. for the year 1793*, be read; which having been read by the clerk accordingly, Mr. Kerr moved the following resolution:

It appearing to this house, that the said act, by which the principal revenue of the country is raised, will expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, and it will be impossible by that time to frame the usual annual bill: Resolved therefore, That to prevent a diminution of the public revenue and a partial exemption from duties, a committee be appointed to bring in a bill to continue the said act.

Ordered, That Mr. Kerr and Mr. Wyly be a committee to bring in the same.

Mr. Kerr, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill, intituled, *An act to continue an act for laying duties on sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, therein mentioned, for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government, &c.* reported the same, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Speaker laid before the house two letters from the late colonial agent, which were ordered to be read by the clerk.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the table, for the perusal of the members.

Ordered, That the clerk of the late committee of correspondence do lay before this house all correspondence with the late colonial agent.

On motion, Ordered, That Mr. Roxburgh and Mr. Roker be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill for laying a tax upon the gross sales of all property, merchandize, and other effects, that may be sold at public auction, or otherwise by venduemasters on commission, within these islands, except in such cases as are therein mentioned; and for suspending an act therein named.

On motion of Mr. O'Halloran, Ordered, That the public secretary do attend this house whenever the investigation respecting the second writs for Abaco and Long Island, shall be entered into by this house.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Thursday, 25th September, 1794.*

The house met according to adjournment.

The engrossed address to his excellency the governour was read in the words following:

*Bahama*



*Bahama Islands.*

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore,  
his majesty's lieutenant, &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the general assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the general assembly of the Bahama Islands, beg leave to return your excellency our thanks for your speech at the opening of this session.*

*The opportunity your excellency has afforded the people at large of exercising their sentiments in the choice of representatives, by calling a new assembly, has been long the general wish, and demands our grateful acknowledgements.*

*We thank you for the satisfaction you express at this our first meeting.*

*Impressed with the strongest attachment to our most gracious sovereign and happy constitution, we assure your excellency of our zealous endeavours to promote the public welfare; and having no other object in view, we trust that harmony and good understanding will prevail in the prosecution of this desirable end.*

*When the necessary estimates and accounts are laid before us, we will as soon as possible provide such supplies as the service of the country may require, and the circumstances of our constituents admit.*

*We will pay due attention to the other matters recommended by your excellency; and we feel it our duty as well as inclination, to proceed on the public business with the utmost dispatch, happy in the assurance of your excellency's co-operation in every measure necessary for the public good.*

*Ordered, That the speaker do sign the address.*

*Mr Roker, from the committee appointed to bring in a vendue bill, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.*

*On motion, Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.*

*Read a first time accordingly.*

*On motion, Ordered, That the bill to continue the Revenue Act, be read a second time.*

*Read a second time accordingly.*

*Ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house.*

*Mr Kerr informed the house, that James Kelly, esquire, a member elect for Eleuthera, was attending; and moved, that two members of this house do attend him to the council, to be sworn in.*

*Ordered, That Mr. Wylly and Mr. Hunter be a committee for that purpose; who being returned, reported the council had not met.*

*Mr. Kerr moved, that the order of the day for taking matters of privilege respecting writs of election into consideration, be postponed until to-morrow.*

*The house having divided, passed in the negative.*

*The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the matters of privilege respecting the issuing of writs of election.*

*Mr. Speaker left the chair.*

Mr.

Mr. Forbes took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair ; and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had come to the following resolution :

Resolved, That the issuing of a second writ for the election of two members to serve in this present general assembly for Long Island, is a high infringement of the rights and privileges of this house, and that the aforesaid writ is illegal and void.

The house took the report of the committee into consideration, and having divided, it was Resolved, That the house do concur with the report of the committee.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for re-appointing George Chalmers, esquire, colonial agent.

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran and Mr. Kerr be a committee to bring in the same.

The public secretary laid before the house a writ of election and return for Abaco, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house to take into consideration the bill to continue the Vendue Act.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Roker took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair ; and Mr. Roker, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the same.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

On motion, Resolved, That the resolution of this house, declaring the second writ of election for Long Island illegal and void, be notified to the person named therein as returning officer, and that he do not proceed to any election under or by virtue of that writ.

Ordered, That the clerk of this house do furnish George Bunch, esquire, with copies of this and of the aforesaid resolution.

On motion, Resolved, That the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole house to-morrow, to take into further consideration the matters of privilege respecting the issuing of writs of election.

Ordered, That there be a call of the house to-morrow.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Friday, 26th September, 1794.*

The house met according to adjournment.

Mr. Haven presented a petition to the house from Richard Pearis, senior, John Wells and Alexander Taylor, esquires, three of the candidates at the Abaco election ; which was ordered to be read by the clerk, and is follows:

*To the honourable the speaker and general assembly of the Bahama Islands.*

*The petition of Richard Pearis, John Wells, and Alexander Taylor.*

*Humbly represents,*

*That at the election of three members for the island of Abaco, held by John Carmichael, esquire, as returning officer, the 22d day of September instant, your petitioners*



petitioners were candidates; and at the close of the poll the number of votes admitted by said returning officer were, for John Mackenzie, 12, for Philip Dumaresq and Christopher Fisher, 11, for the petitioners John Wells and Alexander Taylor, 10, and for the petitioner Richard Pearis, 9.

That a number of unqualified persons voted for the said John Mackenzie, Philip Dumaresq, and Christopher Fisher, by which they obtained the majority, as above stated; and it being impossible to enter upon a scrutiny, as demanded on the part of your petitioners, a special return was made; and the petitioners now apply to your honourable house, as ultimate judges in this respect, and beg leave to state, that Alexander Thomson, John Lovell, and John Macdonald, three of the voters at the poll for the said John Mackenzie, Philip Dumaresq, and Christopher Fisher, had not the least pretension or right to vote, although they took the oaths of qualification, and thereby were guilty of corrupt and wilful perjury.

That the said Alexander Thomson voted as a freeholder, and rested his qualification upon having had a warrant of survey for land, which he admitted was never surveyed, nor granted to him; nor did he pretend to any estate or other right which could legally vest a freehold in him.

That John Lovell, although he had sold and disposed of all the lands granted to him, swore he was a freeholder, and voted as such, under pretence that he had bought some town lots on Abaco; although it is notorious that no freehold could be in that respect.

That John Macdonald, when he came in the morning sober to the poll, declared he could not take the oath of qualification, and retired; but about one o'clock he returned drunk, and took the oath that he was a freeholder, on pretence of some right of his wife, formerly a Miss Foster, to a lot or lands on Abaco; the said Macdonald mentioning, when questioned, that the honourable Mr Miller had told him he had seen a grant to his said wife, although the said John Macdonald himself confessed that he knew nothing about the land; and in fact, no grant ever issued to his said wife for any lot or land on Abaco.

Your petitioners further represent, that Christopher Fisher also voted for himself and the said John Mackenzie and Philip Dumaresq, as a freeholder, founding his right upon a pretended conveyance of land, expressed to be to Joseph Curry and company, of which company he said he was one; although the petitioners submit that such conveyance, so worded, could give a freehold to no other person or persons than those expressly named.

That your petitioners are informed your honourable house have now under discussion matters of privilege relative to the issuing of the writ for Abaco, under which the said election was held; that they of course must, with submission, rest satisfied with whatever decision may be made respecting the same, however hard or inconvenient it may bear on the petitioners, who have decidedly the majority of legal votes. But should the said writ be determined to be valid, the petitioners hope the house will have the goodness to take into consideration at an early day, the case of the petitioners, who are ready to establish, when called upon, the facts herein stated; and they trust that the nefarious conduct, whereby a majority was illegally obtained on the poll for the other candidates, will not only meet the strongest reprobation of your honourable house, as subversive of the rights of electors duly qualified, but that the perjuries so wilfully and corruptly committed, in violation of every principle of good morals and the sacred obligation of oaths, will be prosecuted and severely punished.

May it therefore please your honourable house to make such order respecting the premises, as in your wisdom may be deemed fit and proper; and your petitioners will pray.

Rich. Pearis, senior.  
Alex. Taylor.  
John Wells.

Nassau, 26th September, 1794.

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On motion, Ordered, That the above petition be referred to a committee of the whole house on the matters of privilege respecting writs of election.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill, intituled *An act to continue an act for laying duties on sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, therein mentioned, for the purpose of raising a revenue, for the support of this government, and directing how the same shall be collected and applied*, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the speaker do sign the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Kerr and Mr. Stiles be a committee to carry the bill to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported that the council had not met.

Mr. Roker moved, that the Vendue Bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill be committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

Mr. Kerr moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable his excellency the governour, or commander in chief for the time being, to prohibit by proclamation, the exportation of flour and other provisions from these Islands, for a limited time.

Ordered, That Mr. Kerr and Mr. Cunningham be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Roker moved the order of the day.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the matters of privilege respecting the issuing of writs of election.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair; and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Hunter, agreeable to order, attended Mr. Kelly, the new member for Eleuthera, to the council; who being returned, reported, that he had taken the usual oaths.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelly do take his seat accordingly.

Mr. Kerr and Mr. Stiles, agreeable to order, carried the bill to continue the Revenue Act, to the council for their concurrence; and being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Resolved, That the house do wait on his excellency the governour with their address, agreeable to his excellency's message of Wednesday last.

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governour; and being returned, Mr. Speaker, from the chair, reported, that the house having waited on his excellency the governour, and presented their address, his excellency had been pleased to return the following answer:

Mr.



*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,  
I request your acceptance of my thanks for this dutiful and loyal address. The sentiments therein contained, (and which I doubt not will be evinced by experience,) cannot fail of promoting, in the highest degree, the honour of his majesty's government, the unchangeable principles of our happy constitution, the quiet and prosperity of these islands.*

DUNMORE.

*Government house, September 26, 1794.*

Ordered, That the address, and his excellency the governor's answer thereto, be published in the gazette, and that the clerk do furnish the printer with copies of the same.

On motion, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into further consideration the matters of privilege respecting the issuing of writs of election.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Forbes took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair; and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had come to the following resolutions, which they recommended to the house:

Resolved, That the second writ, issued for the election of three members to represent the island of Abaco, dated the 3d of September instant, directed to John Carmichael, esquire, which he hath returned executed, and was yesterday laid before the house by the public secretary, was illegally and improperly issued; and that the election held by virtue of the same, is a void election.

Resolved, That except the original summons or writ for general elections, no writ can lawfully or constitutionally issue for the election of any person or persons to serve in the general assembly of these islands, unless upon application or by order of the general assembly.

The house took the report of the committee into consideration; and having divided, it was carried, That the house do agree with the report of the committee.

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governor:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly request your excellency will be pleased to give directions for issuing a writ for the election of three members to represent the island of Abaco in the general assembly, the house having declared the last election there void.*

Ordered, That Mr. Kelly, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, and Mr. Dames, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor with the message; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary.

Ordered, That the votes of the house, since the commencement of the present session, be published in the gazette.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Saturday,*

Saturday, 27th September, 1794.

The house met according to adjournment, and adjourned to Monday morning, ten o'clock.

Monday, 29th September, 1794.

The house met according to adjournment.

On motion, Ordered, That in questions where a division takes place, any three members may demand the yeas and nays to be entered on the minutes; and that the same shall accordingly be done.

Mr. Kerr, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill, intitled *An act to empower the governour, or commander in chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands*, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the state of the burying grounds in the town of Nassau, and report to the house.

Ordered, That Mr. Kerr and Mr. Cunningham be a committee for that purpose.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the state of the pilotage of the bars and harbours of New Providence; and that they do report what other or further regulations may be necessary respecting the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Forbes, Mr. Roxburgh, Mr. T. Carr, Mr. Mackey, and Mr. Begbie, be a committee for that purpose.

Mr. Roker moved the order of the day.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the Vendue Bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Roker took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Roker, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the same, and made some amendments thereto.

Mr. Roker moved, that the bill be read a third time, with the amendments.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Mr. O'Halloran, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for re-appointing George Chalmers, esquire, colonial agent, &c. &c. reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered to be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Ordered.



Ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

On motion, Ordered, That the bill, intituled *An act to empower the governour, or commander in chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these Islands*, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house to-mor ow

On motion, Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour :

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly request your excellency will be pleased to order to be laid before them, the accounts of the public expenadture from the last session, and also the estimate of expences for the current year.*

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. North, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Darrel, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the message; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof; and that his excellency was pleased to say, that he would lay the accounts, with the vouchers and estimate, before the house as soon as possible.

Mr. Wylly moved for leave to bring in a bill, for laying a duty or tax on transient persons trading to and amongst these islands.

Ordered, That Mr. Wylly and Mr. Begbie be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The committee appointed to inquire what laws are expired or are near expiring, and to report such as are proper to be revived or continued, made their report.

Mr. O'Halloran presented a petition from Elizabeth Bunch, widow, praying an allowance for taking care of and keeping clean the assembly room, council chamber, and other rooms of the public building; which was ordered to lie on the table.

A message from his excellency the governour, by the public secretary :

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*I have thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of his majesty's honourable council, to dissolve the present house of the general assembly; and you are dissolved accordingly.*

DUNMORE.

Government house, September 29, 1794.







# VOTES

OF THE HONOURABLE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF THE

*BAHAMA ISLANDS.*

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*Tuesday, 6th October, 1795.*

**T**HE secretary of the colony attended, with his book of entry and a certified list of the several persons returned to serve as members in the general assembly of the Bahama Islands, appointed to meet this day in the town of Nassau, viz.

Thomas Forbes,	}	esquires, for the Town of Nassau.
Stephen Haven,		
Alexander Begbie,		
Abraham Eve,		
John Cunningham,	}	esquires, for the Western District.
Thomas North,		
Dugald Forbes,	}	esquires, for the Eastern District.
Tiddeman Carr,		
John Kelfall,	}	esquires, for the Island of Exuma.
Charles Dames,		
Archibald Campbell,		
Thomas Roker,	}	esquires, for Long Island.
William Wyly,		
John-Mullryne Tattnall, esquire, for Cat Island.		
Joseph Hunter,	}	esquires, for Andros Island.
John Stiles,		
John Carmichael,	}	esquires, for Harbour Island.
John Fergusson, sen.		
Richard Sweeting,		

John

John O'Halloran,	}	esquires, for Eleuthera.
James Kelly,		
Samuel Mackey,		
Alexander Taylor,	}	esquires, for Andros Island.
James Webster,		
Hugh Dean,		

Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Carr, and Mr. Kelly, waited on his excellency the governour, and acquainted him that a sufficient number of members were met to proceed on business; and being returned, reported, that his excellency was pleased to say, he would send two of the members of his majesty's council, to administer the usual oaths for the qualification of the members.

The honourable John Miller and the honourable Adam Christie, two members of his majesty's council, attended accordingly, and administered the usual oaths to the following members, viz.

Thomas Forbes, Stephen Haven, Alexander Begbie, Abraham Eve, for the Town of Nassau.

Thomas North, John Cunningham, for the Western District.

Dugald Forbes, Tiddeman Carr, for the Eastern District.

Alexander Taylor, James Webster, Hugh Dean, for Abaco.

Thomas Roker, William Wylly, for Long Island.

John Kelsall, Charles Dames, Archibald Campbell, for the Island of Exuma.

John Mullryne Tattall, for Cat Island.

Joseph Hunter, John Stiles, for Andros Island.

John Carmichael, John Fergusson, sen. Richard Sweeting, for Harbour Island.

John O'Halloran, James Kelly, Samuel Mackey, for Eleuthera.

After which, the members of the council withdrew.

A message from his excellency the governor by the public secretary:

*That the members do proceed to the choice of a speaker.*

The members accordingly proceeded to the choice of a speaker, when Thomas Roker, esquire, was unanimously elected.

The house proceeded to the choice of a clerk, when Peter Edwards, esquire, was unanimously chosen.

The house was pleased to appoint Alexander Kidd and Richard Hutcheson messengers and doorkeepers.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelsall, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. North, and Mr. Cunniagh, do wait on his excellency the governour, and acquaint him, that the members had proceeded to the choice of a speaker, and request to be informed when he will be pleased that they should wait on him, to present the speaker elect, for his excellency's approbation; who being returned, reported, that his excellency was pleased to say, that he would receive the members with the speaker elect immediately.

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governour; and on being returned, the speaker elect reported, from the chair, that



that having been presented to his excellency the governour, he was pleased to approve of the choice the house had made; and that his excellency had been pleased to make a speech, of which the following is a copy; which the speaker read from the chair, and was afterwards ordered to be read by the clerk.

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*I have thought it essentially necessary to meet you at this time in general assembly, when your endeavours for the public good may be so usefully exerted, and your individual concerns least likely to suffer by your attendance on the business of the country*

*In contemplating the various important matters that will naturally present themselves to your view, both with respect to the state of the revenue, and the framing of such laws as may be deemed necessary to the general welfare, I trust that the utmost harmony and dispatch will prevail in your deliberations, and that you will establish such a wholesome, strong, and efficient system of order, as may ensure and perpetuate the prosperity and consequence of these islands.*

*Gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*I shall order the proper estimates, vouchers, and other documents, connected with the state of the treasury, to be laid before you as soon as possible; and I rely on your zeal and attachment to the good of the community, for such an effectual and adequate provision for the public service, as may give vigour and energy to the government of the country, without bearing too much upon the circumstances of your constituents.*

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*The objects for which you are now assembled, are highly important ones. Suffer me therefore to reiterate my earnest recommendations of unanimity and dispatch in the prosecution thereof; and assure yourselves that you will ever find me ready to concur with you, in every measure that may produce peace, happiness, and prosperity to the Bahama's.*

**DUNMORE.**

*Government house, 6th October, 1795.*

Mr. O'Halloran moved, seconded by Mr. Dugald Forbes, that a committee be appointed to prepare an humble address, in answer to his excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran and Mr. Dugald Forbes be a committee to prepare the same.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that Mr. Wyllly be added to the committee.

Ordered accordingly.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that the rules of the house of the last session be read; which were read accordingly.

Ordered, That the said rules be the standing rules and orders of the present session, until the same shall be altered or amended.

Mr. O'Halloran informed the house, that Mr. Stiles, a member elect for Andros Island, was attending; and moved, that two

members of this house do attend him to the council, to be sworn in.

Ordered, That Mr. Hunter and Mr. Dames be a committee for that purpose; who being returned, reported, that they had attended Mr. Stiles to the council, and that he had taken the usual oaths.

Ordered, That Mr. Stiles do take his seat accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Wyly, seconded by Mr. Forbes, that a committee be appointed to wait on his excellency the governour, to acquaint him, that the house had elected Mr. Peter Edwards their clerk, Ordered, That Mr. Webster, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Haven, and Mr. Dean, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the following message:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have elected Mr. Peter Edwards their clerk.*

The committee being returned, reported the delivery of the message.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that a committee be appointed, to inquire what laws are expired or near expiring, and to report such as are proper to be revived or continued.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelsall and Mr. Haven be a committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*Wednesday, 7th October*

The house met according to adjournment.

Ordered, That the house be called over, and the minutes inspected and read; which was done accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Haven, Ordered, That the messenger do wait on the public secretary, and desire him to lay before this house immediately, all the writs and returns which have been returned into his office for the last general election, for the inspection of the house.

The deputy of the public secretary attended accordingly with the writs and returns, which were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. O'Halloran, from the committee appointed to prepare an humble address to his excellency the governour, in answer to his excellency's speech at the opening of the session, reported the same, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

On motion, Resolved, That the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to take the address to his excellency the governour into consideration.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair; and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the same, and had made some amendments thereto.

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The house took the address with the amendments into consideration, and agreed to the same.

Ordered, That the address be engrossed.

Mr. O'Halloran moved, that a committee be appointed to wait on his excellency the governor, to acquaint him that this house has prepared an humble address to his excellency, and begs to be informed when he will be pleased to receive the house with the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Stiles, Mr. Fergusson, Mr. Mackey, and Mr. O'Halloran, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, with the following message:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have prepared an humble address to your excellency, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to receive the same.*

The committee being returned, reported, that they had delivered the message to Mr. Minzies, his excellency's secretary, the governor being in the country.

On motion, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inspect and examine the present rules of this house, and report any alterations or amendments that may appear necessary.

Ordered, That Mr. Wylly and Mr. Kelsall be a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. O'Halloran moved for leave to bring in a bill for the regulation of taverns and punch houses.

Granted accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine o'clock.

*Thursday, 8th October, 1795.*

The house met according to adjournment.

Ordered, That the house be called over, and the minutes inspected and read; which was done accordingly.

The engrossed address was read in the following words.

*Bahama Islands.*

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his majesty's lieutenant and governor general of the said islands, chancellor, vice admiral, and ordinary of the same.*

*The humble address of the general assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We, his majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the general assembly of the Bahama Islands, beg leave to return your excellency our sincere thanks for your speech upon the opening of the present session.*

*We are happy that your excellency is pleased to think, that our exertions may now be productive of public good; but we would, at every expence of private convenience, have most willingly attended at an earlier period, to the various and important affairs of the colony; whereby a great loss of revenue would have been prevented, and the colony have been guarded against the evils and dangers, to which*

which it has been exposed by expiration of many laws that have long been deemed necessary for the general welfare.

We trust with your excellency, that the utmost harmony and dispatch will attend our deliberations; and that, by a strict adherence to the principles of our happy constitution, already established by our mother country, we cannot fail to insure and perpetuate the prosperity and consequence of these islands.

When the proper estimates, vouchers, and other documents connected with the state of the treasury, shall have been laid before us, we will endeavour to make such provision for the public service, as may give vigour and energy to the government of the colony, without bearing too hard upon the embarrassed circumstances of our constituents.

We agree with your excellency, on the importance of the objects which are to engage our deliberations; and we have no doubt, but we shall meet with your excellency's concurrence in such measures as may tend to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the colony.

Resolved, That the address do pass.

Ordered, that the speaker do sign the same.

Mr. Wyll, from the committee appointed to inspect and examine the present rules of this house, delivered in their report; which was ordered to be read by the clerk.

Ordered, that the same be engrossed and laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

On motion, Resolved, That the receiver-general and treasurer be ordered to lay his books, accounts, and vouchers before this house, for the inspection thereof, as soon as may be after he is furnished with a copy of this resolution.

Ordered, that the clerk do furnish the receiver general and treasurer with a copy of the same.

A message from his excellency the governor by the secretary of the colony:

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*A copy of an address from your house, in answer to my speech at the opening of the present session, having been delivered to me yesterday, I have perused it with very great attention; and finding by it that the advantages I proposed to the community from calling you together, are not likely to be accomplished at this period, I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of his majesty's honourable council, to prorogue you, and I do hereby prorogue you to tuesday the twenty-seven<sup>th</sup> day of this instant October; still flattering myself, that the short recess will, by giving time for cool and dispassionate reflection, unite you all in one wish to promote the business, and of course the happiness of the colony.*

DUNMORE.

Government house, 8th October, 1795.

The secretary having withdrawn,

The house came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That this house humbly apprehends a prorogation of the general assembly cannot take place, except by proclamation, or commission under the great seal, or by the commander in chief in person, in presence of the council and assembly; and that this  
house



house do therefore adjourn until to-morrow, in order that his excellency may in the mean time prorogue the general assembly in such constitutional mode as he may think proper.

*Friday, 9th October, 1795.*

The house met according to adjournment.

Ordered, That the house be called over, and the minutes inspected and read; which was done accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Haven, seconded by Mr. Wylly,

Ordered, That the speaker do adjourn the house until tuesday the 27th instant.

The house was adjourned accordingly.

*Tuesday, 3d November, 1795.*

The general assembly met according to prorogation, and a sufficient number of the members appearing to proceed to business,

Resolved, That a message be sent to his excellency the governor, to acquaint him therewith.

Ordered, That Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, and Mr. Webster, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, with the message; who being returned, reported, that his excellency was pleased to say, he was ready to receive the house immediately.

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor, and being returned, Mr. Speaker, from the chair, reported, that the house having waited on his excellency the governor, his excellency was pleased to make the following speech; which he read to the house, and delivered to the clerk at the table:

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*The reasons for which you are now assembled, are so well known to you, that I need not expatiate upon them.*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*You are well acquainted with the wants and interests of the community; and as your duty to your constituents will doubtless stimulate you in your exertions for the public welfare, I look forward with satisfaction to the happy consequences that may ensue therefrom.*

*The estimates for the last and current years, shall be immediately laid before you; and I flatter myself, your wisdom will suggest to you such measures, as may arrange the finances of the country, in such a manner as may best contribute to the general advantage and prosperity of these islands.*

*Gentlemen of the council,*

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*As it is my ardent wish to promote by every means in my power, the peace, business, and prosperity of the Bahama's, nothing shall be wanting on my part to secure and perpetuate those desirable objects.*

DUNMORE.

*Government house, November 3, 1795.*

On motion of Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Mr. Wylly, that a committee be appointed to prepare an humble address, in answer

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to

to his excellency the governour's speech, at the opening of the present session.

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran and Mr. Wylly be a committee to prepare the same, and that they do report to the house to-morrow.

Ordered, That Mr. Wylly and Mr. Kelfall be a committee to inspect and examine the present rules of this house, and report any alterations or amendments, that may appear necessary.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to inspect and examine the present rules of this house, and report any alterations or amendments that may appear necessary, reported, that the committee had inspected and examined the same, and had made such alterations and amendments as appeared to them necessary, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; and the same being again read by the clerk, on motion of Mr. Carmichael, Ordered, That the same be taken into consideration on Friday next, and that the report do lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelfall and Mr. Haven be a committee to inquire what laws are expired or are near expiring, and to report such as are proper to be revived or continued.

Mr. O Halloran moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of taverns and punch houses.

Granted accordingly.

Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do lay his books, accounts, and vouchers, before this house, on Monday next, for the inspection thereof; and that the clerk do furnish him with a copy of this order.

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 4th November, 1795.*

Mr. Dugald Forbes presented a petition from Peter Edwards, Esq. clerk of this house, praying for an assistant clerk.

The house having taken the same into consideration, was pleased to grant the prayer thereof, and to appoint Mr. Clement Martin Edwards, assistant clerk; who attending, was sworn in accordingly.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to prepare an humble address to his excellency the governour, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Resolved, That the said address be committed to a committee of the whole house immediately.

Then the house resolved itself into such committee.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Campbell took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Campbell, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the address, and had agreed to the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; which being again read, was unanimously agreed unto by the house.

Ordered,



Ordered, That the said address be engrossed.

Ordered, That the public secretary do forthwith lay before this house, a list of all persons who have obtained licenses to retail spirituous liquors in the island of New Providence; and that the clerk do furnish the secretary with a copy of this order.

Mr. Wyllly moved for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the police in the town and suburbs of Nassau.

Granted accordingly.

Mr. Kelfall, from the committee appointed to inquire what laws are expired, or are near expiring, and which of them are proper to be revived or continued, delivered in their report.

Ordered, That the said report do lie on the table.

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly beg leave to acquaint you, that they have prepared an humble address to your excellency, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to receive the same.*

Ordered, That Mr. Haven, Mr. Eve, Mr. North, and Mr. Begbie, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the message; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary in the governour's absence.

Ordered, That the commissioners of roads, streets and highways, for the different districts of the island of New Providence, do lay before this house, accounts of all sums of money by them received and expended by virtue of the present Road Act for the island of New Providence.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the report of the committee appointed to enquire what laws are expired or are near expiring, and to report such as are proper to be revived or continued.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had come to the following resolution:

That it be recommended to the house, that the following several laws are either expired or are near expiring, and, in the opinion of the committee, are proper to be revived or continued, viz.

*An act for laying a tax on transient persons trading to and amongst the islands within this government.*

*An act for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent, to represent, solicit, and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain.*

*An act for regulating the public market in the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence, and the assize of bread; for fixing the standard of weights and measures; and for the appointment of lumber measurers, and other purposes therein mentioned.*

*An act to continue and revive an act, intituled, "an act for regulating the general court within these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned."*

*An act to continue and revive an act, intituled, "an act for establishing an inferior court of justice in the island of New Providence, for the more easy*  
*" and*

"and speedy recovery of small debts; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

*An act to revive and continue an act for regulating the office of provost marshal of these islands, for appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

*An act for establishing and regulating the fees to be taken by the several public officers within these islands, therein named, and for suspending an act therein mentioned.*

*An act to continue an act passed in the sixteenth year of his present majesty's reign, intituled, "an act to oblige masters of ships or other vessels, to give security in the secretary's office;" and also, an act for annexing an additional condition to the bond given by the masters of ships and other vessels in the secretary's office, in pursuance of the before mentioned act.*

*An act for suspending an act, intituled, "an act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands."*

*An act for reviving, continuing, and amending an act for the regulation of juries; and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

*An act exempting masters of foreign vessels from giving security in the office of secretary of these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

*An act for laying duties upon sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government, and directing how the same shall be collected and applied.*

*An act for imposing and laying certain assessments and taxes for the year therein mentioned, and directing how the same shall be collected and applied.*

*An act for laying a duty or tax upon the gross sales of all property, merchandize, and other effects that may be sold at public auction, or otherwise by vendue masters on commission, within these islands, except in such cases as are therein mentioned; and for suspending an act therein named.*

*An act for laying certain rates, duties and impositions on all French negroes and other French persons of colour now within these islands, or who may hereafter be brought within the same.*

*An act for the regulation of salt ponds among the Bahama Islands, and for preventing abuse and waste in the raking of salt.*

Resolved, That the house do agree to the report.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for reducing into one act, the several acts of assembly for making and keeping in repair the public roads, streets, and highways, upon the different islands within this government,

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. O'Halloran be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for obliging masters of vessels, and other persons, to give security in the secretary's office,

Ordered, That Mr. Haven and Mr. Cunningham be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for suspending an act, intituled, *An act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands,*

Ordered, That Mr. Eve and Mr. Hunter be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the general court, also a bill to regulate the inferior court, and also a bill for the regulation of juries,

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Haven be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

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On motion for leave to bring in a bill for laying duties on sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, therein mentioned, for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government;

Also, for leave to bring in a bill for laying certain assessments for the year therein mentioned;

Also, for leave to bring in a bill for laying a duty or tax upon fundry goods, wares, and merchandize, sold at public auction, or otherwise by vendue masters on commission;

Also, for leave to bring in a bill for laying a tax on transient persons trading in and among the islands within this government;

And also, for leave to bring in a bill for laying a duty or tax upon French negroes;

Ordered, That Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, and Mr. Fergusson, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the salt ponds within this government,

Ordered, That Mr. Kelfall and Mr. Sweeting be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the pilotage of the bars and harbours of the port of Nassau, &c.

Ordered, That Mr. Taylor and Mr. Thomas Forbes be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for appointing a colonial agent to transact and solicit the affairs of these Islands in Great-Britain,

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Wylly be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the public market, &c.

Ordered, That Mr. Webster and Mr. Campbell be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the office of provost marshal;

Also for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the fees of public officers;

And also for leave to bring in a bill, to empower the governor or commander in chief, with the advice of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions for a limited time;

Ordered, That Mr. Kelfall and Mr. Haven be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating and disciplining the militia of these islands,

Ordered, That Mr. North and Mr. Carmichael be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill to establish courts of sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the several islands and districts therein mentioned, for erecting public gaols, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned,

Ordered, That Mr. Wylly and Mr. Haven be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill to oblige the several inhabitants of these islands to provide themselves with a sufficient number of white men, white women, or white children, on their respective plantations, or pay certain sums of money in case they shall be deficient,

Ordered, That Mr. Kelfall and Mr. Taylor be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of ministers of the gospel, for the support of the poor, and for other purposes therein mentioned,

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Wyllly be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Thursday, 5th November, 1795.

The engrossed address was read in the words following:

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his majesty's lieutenant and governor general in and over the said islands, chancellor, vice admiral, and ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the general assembly.*

*We his majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the general assembly of the Bahama Islands, request your excellency to accept our thanks for your speech at the opening of this session.*

*The same reasons, that have now induced your excellency to assemble us, cannot fail of stimulating us to the discharge of our duty towards our constituents, a pointed attention to whose wants and interests, will be the best means of promoting the public welfare; and we look forward, with your excellency, to the happy consequences that may result to the colony therefrom.*

*When the public accounts and estimates shall have been laid before us, we will endeavour to make such an arrangement of the finances of the country, as may be consistent with the circumstances of our constituents, and as may best contribute to the general advantage and prosperity of these islands.*

*We receive with pleasure, the assurances which your excellency has been pleased to give us, that it is your ardent wish to promote by every means in your power, the peace, happiness, and prosperity of this colony; and we beg leave, in return, to say, that nothing shall be wanting on our part to the attainment of those desirable objects.*

Resolved, That the address do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker sign the same.

A message from his excellency the governor by the public secretary:

*Mr. Speaker,*

*I am commanded by his excellency the governor to acquaint the house, in answer to their message of yesterday, that his excellency will be ready*



*ready to receive them with their address, at eleven o'clock to-morrow forenoon.*

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock,

*Friday, 6th November, 1795.*

Resolved, That prayers be henceforth said, previous to the house proceeding to business, and that this house will make provision for the payment of a chaplain.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take the rules of the house, with the amendments, into consideration.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the rules, with the amendments, and had made some further amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

The following rules were then read by the clerk, and ordered to be the standing rules of the house.

- I. That twelve members and the speaker be deemed a house, to act as if all the members were present, and to proceed to business.
- II. That the speaker and two members, or the clerk, (by order of the speaker) and three members, be a sufficient number to adjourn the house.
- III. That the bell be rung at the hour of adjournment, as a call to business.
- IV. That every member, in a decent dress, shall attend the business of the house, precisely at the hour of adjournment; and if not there at the calling over the list, to forfeit two shillings; and for every half hour after, the like sum; or, if absent the whole day, ten shillings: Which fine or fines may be remitted by the majority of the house. And if any member absent himself more than one day from the house, without leave thereof, during the sitting of the same (unless he can assign a satisfactory reason to the house present, when required) shall be liable to such forfeiture, as the majority of the house shall think fit, not exceeding fifteen pounds.
- V. That as soon as the list is called over, each member to take his seat, and not to go out of the house without leave of the speaker.
- VI. That the minutes of the preceeding day be always read immediately after prayers, and revised by a committee appointed for that purpose, before the house proceed to any other business.
- VII. That no member be interrupted while speaking, and that no member speak while sitting; also, that no member speak oftener than twice to any point in debate, without leave of the house.

VIII.

- VIII. That the member who first rises to speak, shall be first heard; and if two arise to speak together, the speaker shall determine which of them shall speak first.
- IX. That when a motion has been made and seconded, it shall be entered by the clerk; and no other motion shall be made, except for the previous question, until the first shall have been put to the vote.
- X. That no committee shall sit in the forenoon, except on such days on which the house does not sit, without the consent of the house.
- XI. That no bill shall pass the house until it has had three readings, and that no bill shall be read more than twice in one day.
- XII. That this house will not agree to any motion for the granting of public money, or a report from a committee recommending the granting of public money, or a vote of credit, till such motion or report has been made three days.
- XIII. That the speaker shall nominate and appoint members for committees and messages; and the members so appointed shall not be excused, except he or they have the assent of the majority of the house.
- XIV. That not more than six members shall have leave to depart the government, during the sitting of the house.
- XV. That if any member go off these islands without leave of the house, or be absent twelve months successively, his seat shall be deemed vacated.
- XVI. That the clerk shall not, without particular leave of the house, deliver extracts or copies of the journals, or other papers belonging to the house, to any person whatsoever, except to the governor or commander in chief for the time being, and to the members of the house, who may at any time peruse the proceedings, and have copies, on paying the clerk for the same.
- XVII. That when any offending member, or other person or persons, shall, by order of the house, be taken into custody, for breaking any rule, or doing any other thing highly offensive to the house, not particularized in these rules, the messenger shall be paid by such offending member, or other person or persons, each the sum of one dollar for their being so ordered and taken into custody, and the sum of one shilling for every hour he shall so remain in custody or contempt, or any greater sum that the house shall think proper to inflict.
- XVIII. That a resolution being taken on any matter under the consideration of the house, in the house, such resolution shall not be altered during the same session.
- XIX. That no member of the honourable the council of these islands hath any right to interfere in, or give his vote in the election of any member to serve in this assembly.
- XX. That when any thing shall come in question touching the matter of privilege of any member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate.

XXI.



- XXI. That all persons ordered to attend this house, or any committee thereof, are under the protection of the house, in coming, staying, and returning; of which the provost marshal and other persons are to take notice.
- XXII. That when the house is going into a committee of the whole house, on motion of any member, and such motion seconded, the doors shall be locked, and the key laid upon the table before the chairman; and if any member presume to go from the committee without leave, he shall incur the censure of the house.
- XXIII. That every member of this house enjoys the privilege of his person against arrests and imprisonments, in such manner as hath heretofore been used and accustomed; except in cases of treason, felony, breach of the peace, forcible entries, or forcible detainers.
- XXIV. That no member of this house hath any privilege in regard to his goods and chattels, except such as are necessary for his accommodation during his attendance on the house.
- XXV. That no person committed for breach of privilege, by order of this house, ought to be discharged during the session of assembly, but by order or warrant of this house.
- XXVI. That the misrepresenting the proceedings of this house is a breach of privilege, and destructive of the freedom of this house.
- XXVII. That no bill of a private nature shall take rise in this house in future, but by petition from the party or parties desiring such bill, and after a report made by a committee to be appointed to inquire into the allegations of such petition.
- XXVIII. That in questions where a division takes place, any three members may demand the yeas and nays to be entered on the minutes.
- XXIX. That such of the assembly as shall be appointed to propose what the house hath to offer to the governour, or to the commander in chief, or to the council, shall not be exempted from going, unless such member has been of the council, or speaker of the assembly.

The house, agreeable to his excellency the governour's message of yesterday, waited on his excellency the governour with their address; and being returned, Mr. Speaker, from the chair, reported, that the house having waited on his excellency the governour with their address, his excellency had been pleased to return the following answer; which he read from the chair, and is as follows:

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,  
Accept my thanks for your address. From the sentiments therein contained, and the zeal you express for the welfare of these Islands, I cannot but promise myself and the community the most pleasing consequences.*

DUNMORE.

Government house, Nov. 6, 1795.

I

Ordered,

Ordered, That his excellency the governour's speech, the address of this house, and his excellency's answer thereto, be published in the Bahama Gazette; and that the clerk do furnish the printer with copies thereof for that purpose.

The deputy secretary laid before the house, according to order, a list of all persons who have obtained licenses to retail spirituous liquors; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Kelfall, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the regulation of the salt ponds within this government, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered to be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from the reverend Mr. John Richards, setting forth, "that there is neither parsonage house nor glebe, whilst every necessary of life is exceeding dear;" and praying relief: Which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourned until to morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 7th November, 1795.*

The house met, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 9th November, 1795.*

Mr. Wylly presented a petition from the inhabitants of Long Island, setting forth,

"That the distant and detached situation of that island from the seat of government, renders certain internal regulations indispensably necessary:

"That though the decision of important causes, in which the memorialists may be concerned, ought undoubtedly to be referred to the courts of judicature in Nassau, yet the experience of some years evinces the expediency of a court of justice being erected on that island, as well for the recovery of small debts, as for the trial of petty causes of a criminal nature:

"That violations of the peace cannot be punished, without excessive hardships attending the situation of the party accused; which, together with the difficulty and expence of procuring witnesses, might be obviated by the establishment of such a court:

"That, as things are now circumstanced, to bind over the injured to prosecute the aggressor, would be to make oppression a concomitant of redress, to add hardship to injury, and to convert the protection afforded by the laws into a serious grievance:

"That



" That for these reasons, cognizance has seldom been taken of offences of this nature; whereby the peace of society is interrupted with impunity, the factious and turbulent are encouraged, and the weak and peaceable, in order to avoid greater evils, induced to submit to personal abuse and other unworthy treatment:

" That instances have occurred, wherein the expences attending the recovery of small sums, from poor and indigent persons, amounted to double the original debt; and in general, have been found peculiarly oppressive and burthenfome:

" That a common gaol, for the confinement of culprits, and reception of runaway negroes, whose owners are not immediately discovered, is highly expedient and necessary:

" That enacting a law to oblige proprietors of plantations under cultivation, on which they do not actually reside, to keep at least one white person thereon, would be highly beneficial and salutary:

" That disagreeable circumstances have occurred, from the want of a regulation of this kind; and in a period like the present, too much caution cannot be observed:

" That the memorialists trust, when the importance of that island is duly considered, the welfare of its inhabitants will, at length, be found worthy of the attention and countenance of the legislature:

" That though, from the great consumption on that island, of articles of merchandize on which duties are chargeable, the memorialists contribute largely to the public revenue, they derive little or no advantage from the application thereof:

" That the memorialists, viewing with satisfaction the extraordinary and laudable attention paid to the improvement and embellishment of Nassau, are induced to hope that a similar sentiment will be universally excited, by the adoption of measures for the benefit of their island, and the comfort of its inhabitants:

" That the memorialists cannot conceal their regret, that so valuable a part of the colony should have remained so long without any marks of public bounty or regard."

And praying for relief.

A message from his excellency the governor, by the public secretary:

*Mr. Speaker,*

*I am commanded by his excellency the governor to lay before the house, the estimates for the last and present years.*

Ordered, That the same do lie on the table.

The receiver general and treasurer attended, agreeable to order, and laid before the house his books and accounts.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the table.

Mr. Wyll, from the committee appointed to bring in the following bills, viz. a bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court, a bill to continue and amend an act for

for the regulation of the inferior court, and a bill for appointing a colonial agent to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the reverend Mr. Richards, rector of Christ Church parish, be appointed chaplain to this house, and that he be ordered to attend for that purpose to-morrow.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from William Jones, esquire, judge of the inferior court, praying compensation for his trouble and expences in the collection of taxes imposed on French negroes; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Haven, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered to be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill intituled, *An act to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the inferior court*, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill for appointing a colonial agent, to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill intituled, *An act to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court*, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the clerk of the committee of correspondence do lay before this house to-morrow, all the letters and papers received from, and copies of those transmitted to the late colonial agent.

Mr. Kelfall, with leave, brought in a bill to limit the duration of assemblies; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Webster, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the regulating of the public market, &c. reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Tuesday, 10th November, 1795.

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Haven, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to empower the governour, or commander in chief for the time being,



ing, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Hunter presented a petition from Charles Cornet Bacon, major of the militia, praying for a compensation for his services as such; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Wylly presented a petition from Moses Franks, esquire, attorney general, praying an increase of colonial salary; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the bill for appointing a colonial agent to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house immediately.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the said bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Campbell took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Campbell, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the said bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table with the bill; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed, and that the title thereof be, *A bill intitled, an act for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain.*

Ordered, That the bill for limiting the duration of assemblies, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and that the title thereof be, *A bill intitled, an act for limiting the duration of assemblies.*

The following bills were read a second time, viz A bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court: A bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the inferior court: A bill to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office: And a bill for regulating the public market in the town of Nassau.

Resolved, That the said bills be committed to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

Mr. Hunter, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for suspending an act intitled, *An act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands*, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

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Ordered,

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from the church-wardens and vestry of the parish of Christ Church, setting forth, that the former assessments were inadequate for the support of the poor, and praying relief; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the present church-wardens do lay before this house, their books and assessments for the years 1793 and 1794.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for the erecting of a gunpowder magazine, Ordered, That Mr. North and Mr. Wyllly be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill for that purpose.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 11th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee appointed to bring in the following bills, viz. A bill for laying duties upon sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government: A bill for laying a tax or duty upon the gross sales of sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, sold at public auction or otherwise by vendue masters on commission: A bill for laying certain assessments for the year therein mentioned: And a bill for laying a tax on transient persons trading to and amongst these islands: Reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Mr. Wyllly, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the several islands and districts therein named, for erecting a gaol, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Mr. Hunter presented a petition from David Moses, late overseer of the southern road, praying relief; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for laying a tax on French negroes, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kellall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kellall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through part of the bill, and had made several amendments; which



which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; when being again severally read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house: And then Mr. Kelfall acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for the regulation of the salt ponds within this government.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelfall took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelfall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the inferior court.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Webster took the chair in committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Webster, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed to by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill, to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill for regulating the coasting trade of these islands, for establishing the rates of freight to be taken and received by the owners and masters of coasting vessels, trading between the port of Nassau and the several islands of this government, Ordered, That Mr. Thomas Forbes and Mr. Kelfall be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill for that purpose.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Thursday.*

Thursday, 12th November, 1795.

PRAYERS.

Mr. Wyly, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill, to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill, for empowering the governor, or commander in chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill, for the regulation of the salt ponds within this government, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill, for suspending an act intituled, *An act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands*, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Dugald Forbes and Mr. Cunningham be a committee to carry the following bills to the council, viz. A bill for empowering the governor, or commander chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands: A bill for the regulation of the salt ponds within this government: A bill for suspending an act intituled, *An act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands*: And to request their concurrence thereto.

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Mr. Begbie presented a petition from William Baylis, esquire, provost marshal, praying payment of fundry contingent expenses; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for regulating the public market.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Thomas Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Thomas Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where



where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the further consideration of the bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelfall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelfall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Ordered, That the bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the several islands and districts therein named, for erecting public gaols, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 13th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

The engrossed bill for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent, to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

The engrossed bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the inferior court of justice in the island of New Providence, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Kelfall, with leave, brought in a bill to empower the governor, or commander in chief for the time being, to issue writs for the choice of members to serve in the assembly, in the room of such members who shall die, or be called to the council, during the recess of the assembly, and for other purposes therein mentioned; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the following bills be read a first time, viz. The bill for laying duties on sundry goods, wares, and merchandize,

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for

for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government : The bill for laying certain assessments for the year therein mentioned : The bill for laying a duty or tax upon the gross sales of sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, sold at public auction or otherwise by vendue masters on commission : The bill for laying a tax on transient persons trading to and amongst these islands : And the bill for laying a duty or tax on French negroes.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Thomas Forbes, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for regulating the pilotage of the bars and harbours of the port of Nassau, reported the same ; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the several islands and districts therein named, for the erecting of public gaols, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill be committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Wylly presented a petition from Richard Combauld, esquire, late adjutant-general of the militia, praying for a compensation for his trouble and expences during the time he acted as such ; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

M. Kelsall presented a petition from John M'Naughton, mariner, praying to be appointed harbour master ; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the bill for regulating the pilotage of the bars and harbours of the port of Nassau, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill be committed to a committee of the whole house.

Ordered, That the clerk of this house do advertise in the Bahama Gazette, for all persons having demands against the public, to deliver in their accounts properly authenticated to him, within ten days.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelsall and Mr. Carr be a committee to carry the following bills to the council, viz. A bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the inferior court : A bill for limiting the duration of assemblies : A bill for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain : And to request their concurrence thereto.

Who being returned, reported, that the council had adjourned.

Ordered, That the bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

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The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the islands and districts therein named, for erecting public gaols, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Thomas Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through part of the bill, and had made several amendments; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again severally read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Then Mr. Forbes acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this house will again to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole house upon the said bill.

Then the house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 14th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do forthwith lay before this house, a list of French negroes and other slaves, for whom the respective duties imposed by the act for laying certain duties on French negroes, have been paid, and specifying the names of their owners, and the islands where such slaves at present are; and also those, who have been imported or exported since the passing of the said act.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the further consideration of the bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas in the several islands and districts therein named, for erecting public gaols, appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Thomas Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the said bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Mr. Wyll, with leave, brought in a bill for building gaols, and appointing gaolers and constables, in the several islands and districts therein mentioned; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house immediately.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the said bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Campbell took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Campbell, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through part of the said bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again severally read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Then Mr. Campbell acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this house will again, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole house upon the said bill.

Ordered, That there be a call of the house on Tuesday next, and that the absent members be summoned.

Mr. Campbell presented a petition from Benjamin Newton, harbour master, praying to be continued in the said office; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 16th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from Frederick Fine, praying to be appointed harbour master; which was read to the house.

Mr. Kelly presented a petition from John Petty, praying to be appointed harbour master; which was read to the house.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from Ralph Moulden, praying to be appointed pilot for the port of Nassau; which was read to the house.

Ordered, That the foregoing petitions be referred to the commissioners of pilotage, hereafter to be appointed by law.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from Peter Ogle, clerk of the parish of Christ Church, praying an increase of salary; which was read to the house, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered,



Ordered, That the said parish clerk do lay before this house, an account of all fees received by him, from the 25th day of September, 1794, to the date of his petition.

Mr Wyllly presented a petition from Joseph Eve, praying an exclusive right of making certain machines for ginning and cleaning of cotton, &c. which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion for leave to bring in a bill to repeal an act, passed in the twenty-fourth year of his present majesty's reign, intituled, *An act for governing of negroes, mulattoes, mustees, and indians, and for suspending the several acts therein mentioned*; and also to repeal the several acts and clauses of acts, which were suspended by the afore-said act, and for consolidating and bringing into one act, the several laws relating to slaves, and for giving them further protection and security, for altering the mode of trial of slaves charged with capital offences, and for other purposes therein mentioned, Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Kelfall be a committee to bring in a bill for that purpose.

The engrossed bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

The engrossed bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas, for erecting gaols, and appointing constables, on Long Island, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Dames and Mr. Carr be a committee to carry the following bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto, viz. A bill for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent, to solicit and transact the affairs of these islands in Great Britain: A bill for limiting the duration of assemblies: A bill to continue and amend an act for the regulation of the general court: A bill for establishing courts of quarter sessions and inferior courts of common pleas, for erecting gaols, and appointing constables, on Long Island.

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered, That the bill for building gaols, and appointing gaolers and constables, in the several islands and districts therein mentioned, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house immediately.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the said bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table;

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where

where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Resolved, That the Minutes of this house be published, from time to time, in the Bahama Gazette, under the inspection of a committee of the house.

Ordered, That Mr. Kelsall and Mr. Haven be a committee for that purpose.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Tuesday, 17th November, 1795.

#### PRAYERS.

The receiver general and treasurer attended, agreeable to order, and laid the following report before the house:

*That, conformable to the order of the honourable house of assembly, the receiver general and treasurer begs leave to inform them, that the greatest part of the French negroes were captured and sent into this port previous to the passing of the act imposing a duty on them.*

*After the act passed, he had no other remedy to find out the number, than by making an application to the vendue masters, from whom he obtained the accounts of sales, which were (after he had for several months called upon their respective owners for the payment of the tax without much effect) delivered to the king's attorney and solicitor general, who recovered a very considerable sum, which has been carried to the credit of the country. These sales are annexed to the accounts laid before the honourable house by the solicitor general.*

*The receiver general and treasurer has been informed, and believes, that many of them have been sent to the out islands; but it is an utter impossibility for him to ascertain the number.*

*Several have been imported subsequent to the passing of the act, and since its expiration; but a great part have been shipped off. Eight were imported in the Henrietta, two of whom were exported. Six by Mr. Dean, one of whom ran away, and one was exported. Three were imported by Messieurs Cunningham and Wheeler, and acquitted by Judge Grant. Eleven were imported by Captains Smith and Wheeler, and nine exported. Three were imported by Messieurs Cunningham and Shearman, and two exported. Eleven were also imported by Messieurs Cunningham and Shearman, and eight exported.*

A message from the council, with the bill intituled, *An act for the regulation of the salt ponds within this government*, passed by their board: Also with the bill intituled, *An act for suspending an act intituled, "an act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands,"* with some amendments made thereto: Also with the bill intituled, *An act to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office*, with an amendment made thereto: Also with the bill intituled, *An act for empowering the governor, or commander in chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands*, with an amendment made thereto: And also the following message:

*The council acquaint the house of assembly, that the above amendments have been made, in order that an uniformity in the enacting clause in the different acts*  
of



*of the legislature of these islands may be preserved, and as being conformable to his majesty's instructions, and general and established usage; and the council propose, that the same amendment should be made in all such bills, wherein the usual stile in the enacting clause has been departed from.*

*Council chamber, 16th November, 1795.*

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of the ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 18th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

The house took the message of yesterday from the council into consideration, and Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up an answer thereto.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Carmichael be a committee for that purpose.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill for building gaols, and appointing gaolers and constables, in the several islands and districts therein mentioned, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for regulating the pilotage of the bars and harbours of the port of Nassau.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from Doctor James Gow, health officer, praying an allowance for his attendance to the said office: which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from George Echart, carter, praying for rates of cartage to be established ; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. North presented a petition from John Nicol, praying to be appointed clerk of the market ; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the bill to empower the governour, or commander in chief, of these islands to issue writs for the choice of members, to serve in the assembly of these islands, in the room of such members who shall die, or shall be called up to the council of these islands, during the recess of the general assembly, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Dugald Forbes gave notice, that he would to-morrow move for the second reading of the revenue bill, vendue and transient tax bills.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to prepare a message to the council, reported the same ; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table ; where being again read by the clerk, it was agreed unto by the house, and is as follows :

*The general assembly, in answer to the message of the council of yesterday, upon the subject of the amendment made by the council to the bill sent up by this house, intitled, " An act to empower the governour, or commander in chief, to prohibit the exportation of provisions," beg leave to observe, that the words " may it please your majesty, that it may be enacted," struck out of that bill by the council, were inserted immediately before the first enacting clause, from a motive of high deference and respect to the king, and as being conformable to the general usage of the British parliament, and of the colonial assemblies. And the house of assembly beg leave further to observe, that they cannot consider the addition of those words in a respect a departure from the usual stile of former bills of the legislature of these islands, (which has been various) or as being inconsistent with the royal instructions alluded to by the council, which seem to relate only to the enacting clauses of the acts of assembly, and not to the preambles or prayers of the bills.*

*The house, however, do not consider this amendment as being of sufficient magnitude to justify a delay of the public business at the present advanced season of the year, and therefore agree to the same, but would propose, that a committee of both houses should be appointed, for the purpose of conferring and agreeing upon some settled stile, to be used in all acts hereafter to be brought into either house.*

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour :

*May it please your excellency,*

*The general assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that some doubts having been suggested respecting the import of certain of the royal instructions, relating to enacting and repealing of laws by the legislature of these islands ; and the house, wishing cautiously to avoid every thing that may be considered as clashing with those instructions, request, that your excellency will be pleased to order them to be furnished with copies of such of the royal instructions, or parts of instructions, as relate to the passing or repealing of our colonial laws.*

The



The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Thursday, 19th November, 1795.

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wyly be a committee to carry the message of yesterday to the council, and also the bill for the building of gaols, and appointing gaolers and constables, in the several islands therein mentioned; and request their concurrence thereto.

Ordered, That Mr. Fergusson, Mr. Dean, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Eve, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor with the message of yesterday; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governor's absence.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from Patrick Mullins, messenger of the council, praying an increase of salary; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Also, a petition from John Richmond, waiter and searcher of foreign vessels, praying for an increase of salary; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A message from his excellency the governor, by the public secretary:

*Mr. Speaker,*

*I am commanded by his excellency the governor to lay a copy of his instructions before the house, agreeable to your message to his excellency.*

*Copy of his majesty's instructions to the governor, relative to the passing and repealing of laws.*

*"And our further will and pleasure is, that you do not assent to the re-enacting of any law, to which the approbation of us or our royal predecessors hath been refused, without express leave for that purpose first obtained from us, upon a full representation to be made by you to us, through one of our principal secretaries of state, and to the committee of our privy council for trade and plantations; neither shall you give your assent to any bill for repealing any law passed in the Bahama Islands, whether the same hath or hath not received our royal approbation, unless there shall be a clause inserted therein, suspending the execution thereof until our pleasure therein be known."*

*A true copy.*

*Ja. Minzies, Secretary to the governor.*

*Government house, 19th Nov. 1795.*

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill to empower the governor, or commander in chief, of these islands to issue writs for the choice of members to serve in the assembly of the said islands, in the room of such members who shall die, or shall be called up to the

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council of these islands, during the recess of the assembly, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelsall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelsall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Mr. Wyll, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to repeal an act, passed in the twenty-fourth year of his present majesty's reign, intitled, *An act for governing negroes, mulattoes, mustees, and indians, and for suspending several acts therein mentioned*; and also to repeal the several acts and clauses of acts, which were suspended by the aforesaid act, and for consolidating and bringing into one act, the several laws relating to slaves, and for giving them further protection and security, for altering the mode of trial of slaves charged with capital offences, and for other purposes therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That one hundred copies of the said bill be printed, under the inspection of a committee of this house, to be by them distributed as they may think proper.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyll and Mr. Kelsall be a committee for that purpose.

Ordered, That the revenue bill, the vendue bill, and the transient tax bill, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Mr. Wyll moved, That a committee be appointed to examine the accounts and estimates, for which provision ought to be made by this house, and to make a general report of the amount of the monies, which it may be necessary to levy for the payment of the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Begbie, be a committee for that purpose; and that they do report to the house on or before Wednesday next, the 25th instant.

Resolved, That the vendue bill be committed to a committee of the whole house on Tuesday next.

Ordered, That the bill for laying a tax on French negroes, and the assessment bill, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

A message from the council, with the general court bill, the inferior court bill, and the colonial agent bill, passed by their board; also the following message:

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*The council inform the assembly, that they have appointed Mr. Miller and Mr. Chryslie to be a committee to confer on the subject of their message of this day.*

*Council chamber; 19th November, 1795.*

Ordered, That Mr Wyllly, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Kelfall, and Mr. Haven, be a committee to confer with the committee of the council.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 20th November, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Thomas Forbes presented a petition from Mr. George Augustus Gamble, praying to be reimbursed for sundry expences attending the making the southern road across the island of New Providence.

Mr. Wyllly presented a petition from Messieurs Forbes, Stevens, and Co. merchants, for and on behalf of the owners and underwriters concerned in the ship Countess of Haddington and her cargo, praying relief; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from the reverend John Richards, and Thomas Forbes, administrators of the estate and effects of the late reverend Philip Dixon, minister of the gospel for the parish of Saint John, praying relief, was presented and read to the house, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 21st November, 1795.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 23d November, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Haven, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the better regulation of juries, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Haven, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the office of provost marshal, for appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the pilotage bill, and the bill to empower the governour, or commander in chief, of these islands to issue writs for members to serve in the assembly, during the recess, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Mr. Wyllly, from the committee appointed to confer with a committee of the council, delivered in their report, and is as follows:

*At a meeting of the committee of the council and assembly, appointed to confer and agree upon the stile of all bills hereafter to be brought into either house; at the council chamber, Tuesday, 10th November, 1795.*

*Present,*

*The honourable John Miller, esquire, }  
The honourable Adam Chrystie, esquire, } Members of the council.*

*John Kelsall, esquire, }  
Stephen Haven, esquire, } Members of the assembly.  
John Carmichael, esquire, }  
William Wyllly, esquire, }*

*It was unanimously agreed, that it be recommended to the council and house of assembly, that in all bills other than money bills, hereafter to be brought into either house, the following words, " may it please your majesty, that it may be enacted by (his excellency or honour, naming the governour, lieutenant governour, or commander in chief, and giving him his proper titles) the council, and assembly of your majesty's Bahama Islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same," be inserted immediately before, and in the first part of the first enacting clause; and that in all money bills hereafter to be brought into the house of assembly, the words, " we, your majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the assembly of the Bahama Islands, do most humbly beseech your majesty, that it may be enacted, be it therefore enacted by (his excellency or honour, naming the governour, lieutenant governour, or commander in chief, and giving him his proper titles) the council, and assembly of the Bahama Islands, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same," be inserted immediately before, and in the first part of the first enacting clause of all such money bills.*

*John Miller.*

*Adam Chrystie.*

*John Kelsall.*

*Stephen Haven.*

*Wm. Wyllly.*

*John Carmichael.*

Resolved, That the house do agree to the report.

Ordered, That Mr. Taylor and Mr. Mackey be a committee to carry the following message to the council:

*The house of assembly acquaint the council, that they have agreed to the report of the committee of both houses appointed to confer and agree upon the stile of all bills hereafter to be brought into either house; to which they request the concurrence of the council.*

*November 23d, 1795.*

Also the following bills, and request their concurrence thereto, viz. the pilotage bill, and the bill for empowering the governour



nour or commander in chief to issue writs during the recess, for the choice of members to serve in the assembly.

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the establishment of a powder magazine, and appointment of a powder receiver, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Carmichael, from the committee appointed to bring in a militia bill, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

A petition from Thomas Baker, adjutant of militia, was presented to the house, praying a compensation for his services; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from Captains George Leitch, and Robert Thomson, of the militia, was presented to the house, praying payment of clothing for their companies; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from Messrs. William and James Moss, respecting duties paid on coffee, which was afterwards exported. and praying relief; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for laying a tax on French negroes.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Wylly took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Wylly, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

A message from the council:

*The council inform the assembly, in answer to their message of this day, that they have agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the subject of the stile of the bills to be brought into either house.*

*Council chamber, 23<sup>d</sup> November, 1795.*

Ordered, That the bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of the ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

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Resolved,

Resolved, That the bill do pass.  
The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday, 24th November, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the bill for the establishment of a powder magazine, and appointing a powder receiver, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house immediately.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the said bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Begbie took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Begbie, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Resolved, That the order of the day on the vendue bill, be postponed until to-morrow.

A message from the council, with the pilotage bill, and some amendments made thereto; also with the bill to empower the governor to issue writs for the election of members to serve in the assembly, during the recess; passed by their board.

The house took the amendments made by the council to the pilotage bill into consideration, and agreed to the same.

Ordered, That the bill for the better regulation of the office of provost marshal, for appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the bill for the better regulation of juries, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Then the house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 25th November, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Carmichael, from the committee appointed to examine the accounts and estimates, and to make a general report of the amount



amount of the monies which it may be necessary to levy, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Ordered, That the bill for establishing a powder magazine, and appointing a powder receiver, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the bill for laying a tax on French negroes, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Mr Kelsall, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to oblige the several inhabitants of these islands to provide themselves with a sufficient number of white men, white women, or white children, on their respective plantations, or pay certain sums of money in case they should be deficient, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Thursday, 26th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Kelly be a committee to carry the following bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto, viz A bill for the better regulation of the office of provost marshal, for appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned: A bill for the better regulation of juries: A bill for establishing a powder magazine, and appointing a powder receiver: A bill for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purposes therein mentioned: And a bill for laying a tax on French negroes.

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Resolved, That the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, on the consideration of the petitions and accounts presented to the house.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the petitions and accounts.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Begbie took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Begbie, from the committee, reported the following resolutions, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed to by the house.

1. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of one hundred

hundred and seventy-nine pounds, thirteen shillings, and six pence, to the order of the church wardens of the parish of Christ Church for the year ending on Easter Monday last past, in full for money advanced by them for the use of the poor, up to that date ; as by their petition to the house this session.

2. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for allowing hereafter to Moses Franks, esquire, his majesty's attorney and advocate general, a salary of one hundred and seventy-five pounds, for all contingent expences, either as counsel, advocate, attorney, solicitor, or proctor, in all cases, either civil or criminal, in any of the courts within these islands ; and also for opinions and advice to the different public officers, in any matters relative to their respective offices ; as by his petition to the house this session.

3. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying to the order of the reverend John Richards, and Thomas Forbes, esquire, administrators of the estate and effects of the late reverend Philip Dixon, rector of the parish of Saint John, the sum of two hundred pounds ; to wit, for one year's salary, one hundred pounds, for one year's house rent, forty pounds, and for visiting Eleuthera, sixty pounds ; as by their petition to the house this session.

4. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of sixty pounds to Elizabeth Bunch, for her service as housekeeper of the house of assembly for three years, ending the 8th of October, 1795 ; as by her petition to the house this session.

5. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of forty pounds to William Jones, esquire, judge of the inferior court of the island of New Providence, in lieu of his fees for collecting the taxes on French negroes ; as by his petition to the house this session.

6. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of one hundred and seventy-nine pounds, eighteen shillings, to Messrs. Forbes, Stevens, and company, merchants, for the use of the owners and underwriters of the ship Countess of Haddington, and her cargo.

7. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of two hundred pounds to the order of George-Augustus Gamble, in full of all demands against the Public, on account of the southern road ; as by his petition to the house this session.

8. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for paying the sum of two hundred and fifty-five pounds to the order of William Baylis, esquire, provost marshal, in full of his account for all contingent charges against the Public, up to the 20th of October last past.

9. That



9. That by the militia law of these islands, no field officer, captain, lieutenant, or ensign, is entitled to receive any pay whatever, for his service in the militia; and that the non-commissioned officers and privates are entitled to pay, only when embodied and in actual service.

10. That it be recommended to the house, to appoint a committee to inquire into the allegations set forth in the petition of Joseph Eve, and report thereon to the house.

And then Mr. Begbie acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 27th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the petitions and accounts presented to the house.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported the following resolutions, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again severally read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

1. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for allowing hereafter to William Baylis, esquire, or the provost marshal for the time being, a salary of two hundred pounds *per annum*, in lieu of all fees and charges for service against the Public of these islands in his said office.

2. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for allowing hereafter to the crier of the general court and judges tipstaff, a salary of fifty-five pounds *per annum*, in lieu of all fees and charges against the Public of these islands.

3. That it be recommended to the house, to direct a clause to be inserted in one of the money bills, for allowing hereafter to the gaoler of the prison of Nassau, a salary of eighty pounds *per annum*, in lieu of all fees and charges against the Public of these islands, and for providing a public whipper.

And then Mr. Carmichael acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Mr. Webster, with leave, brought in a bill for reviving and continuing an act for exempting the masters of certain vessels from giving

giving security in the office of secretary of these islands; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Read a second time.

Resolved, That the bill be committed to a committee of the whole house.

Ordered, That the treasurer do attend the house on Monday next, with the warrants and vouchers necessary to authenticate his accounts.

Ordered, That the commissioners of the market do lay a state of their accounts before the house, on Monday next.

Mr. Wylly, with leave, brought in a bill to amend the quarantine act; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the said bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to continue and amend the New Providence road act, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to continue and amend the out island road act, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 28th November, 1795.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 30th November, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

A message from his excellency the governour, by the public secretary:

*Mr Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*Having found, that an acting magistrate was very much wanted for the town of Nassau, and island of New Providence, and considering Peter Edwards, esquire, as a proper person to execute that office, I directed him to take the execution thereof upon him; and his conduct therein has been such, as induces me to request, that provision may be made by you for his past services, and that a future annual allowance may be provided for him, so as to enable him to attend to the important duties of that office, with ease to himself, and benefit to the community.*

DUNMORE.

*Government house, 30th November, 1795.*

Ordered,



Ordered, That the New Providence road bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Ordered, That the out island road bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

A message from the council, with the jury bill, the provost marshal bill, the parochial bill, and the powder magazine bill; passed by their board.

Ordered, That the clerk do give public notice, that no accounts will be received by the house after Thursday next, the 3d day of December.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyly, Mr. Kelfall, and Mr. Thomas Forbes, be a committee to inquire into the allegations of the facts set forth in the petition of Mr. Joseph Eve, presented to the house, and to report the same, with their opinions thereon, to the house.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the New Providence road bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Webster took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Webster, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto: which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be read a third time, with the amendments.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the revenue bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Resolved, That the order for the receiver general and treasurer's attendance on the house this day, be postponed.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday, 1st December, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Begbie be a committee to carry the market bill to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the out island road bill, and the bill for reviving and continuing an act for exempting masters of certain vessels giving security in the office of secretary of these islands, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the revenue bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the vendue bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelfall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelfall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the transient tax bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelfall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelfall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

Mr. Eve presented a petition from Andrew Seton and Thomas Eve, respecting duties on coffee imported from St. Domingo, and which was afterwards exported; and the same having been read,

Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do write off from the bonds of the petitioners, the amount of so much as appears to his satisfaction to have been duly exported.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday,*



Wednesday, 2d December, 1795.

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Cunningham and Mr. North be a committee, to carry the following bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto, viz. A bill to amend the quarantine act: A bill to revive and continue an act for exempting masters of certain vessels from giving security in the office of the secretary of these islands: And the New Providence and our island road bills.

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee on the deficiency bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelsall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Begbie, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the militia bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Wylly, Resolved, That the following messages be sent to his excellency the governor:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to inform your excellency, that the house having taken into consideration the letter from Mr. Secretary Dundas to your excellency, of the 10th of March, 1792, laid before a former house of assembly by your excellency's order, informing your excellency, that the secretary of state had received from his grace the archbishop of Canterbury, a report of the committee of the society for the propagation of the gospel, signifying their intention of sending out an additional missionary, with a salary of fifty pounds a year, for Long Island; and that the secretary of state, in consequence, desired that your lordship would take the most convenient opportunity of applying to the council and assembly, for a like allowance to such missionary for the hire of a vessel, as had been made to the missionary of Harbour Island; also, that your lordship would recommend to them, to consider of the propriety of making a due provision for the establishment of churches, with suitable houses and glebes for the ministers, in the islands of Abaco, Andros, Caicos, and Crooked Island, or in such of them as it should appear most expedient and requisite that the same should be done; and that your lordship would at the same time signify to the council and assembly, the intention of the society to send out such missionaries as should be competent to the service of those islands, as soon as ever such provision should be made. A bill was, in consequence, brought into the assembly, by whom it was passed; and having met with the concurrence of the council, will be presented for your excellency's assent.*

*That the legislature having in view, by the aforeaid bill, to make a respectable and permanent provision for the clergy of these islands, the assembly are*

*Q*

*convinced*

convinced your excellency will co-operate with them in promoting so desirable an object; and as there are several islands and parishes, in which no lands have as yet been set apart for glebes, they request your excellency will be pleased to order so much of the crown lands as may be necessary and proper, to be appointed for glebes upon the islands mentioned in Mr. Secretary Dundas's letter, and also upon the islands of New Providence, Harbour Island, Eleuthera, Saint Salvador or Cat Island, and Exuma.

House of assembly, 2d December, 1795.

May it please your excellency,

The house of assembly beg leave to inform your excellency, that on looking into the general commission of the peace for these islands, they are of opinion it will be difficult to carry some of the revenue and other laws into execution, unless your excellency shall think proper to appoint a sufficient number of gentlemen actually residing in the different islands, to be justices of the peace within their particular and respective islands and districts: And, if your excellency should concur in this opinion, the assembly request you will be pleased to order commissions to be made out accordingly.

House of assembly, 2d December, 1795.

Ordered, That Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dames, and Mr. Carr, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, with the above messages; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered, That the commissioners for the highways and streets of the town of Nassau do lay before the house forthwith, an accurate list of all persons who have been assessed for labour on the same.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Thursday, 3d December, 1795.

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Carr presented a petition from Douglass Ker, praying to be appointed harbour master; and the same having been read,

Resolved, That the petition be referred to the commissioners of pilotage.

A message from the council, with the New Providence road bill, and the bill for reviving and continuing an act for exempting masters of certain vessels from giving security in the office of secretary of these islands, passed by their board; and also, the bill for the erecting and building of gaols, &c. in the several islands and districts therein mentioned, with an amendment made thereto.

The house took the amendment into consideration, and agreed to the same.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the militia bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kellall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kellall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments there-  
to;



to; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Mr. Haven, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to revive and continue an act for regulating the fees of public officers, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 4th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from John Geary, praying to be appointed harbour master; which being read,

Resolved, That the said petition be referred to the commissioners of pilotage.

Mr. Begbie presented a petition from Williams Bradford, esquire, respecting the opening and widening of Prison lane; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from William Hay, schoolmaster; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Wyll presented a petition from Susannah Ross, widow, praying for a compensation for her late husband's services, during the time he performed the duty of acting magistrate; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the following engrossed bills be read a third time, viz. the revenue bill, the vendue bill, and the transient tax bill.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bills do pass.

Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do lay before the house forthwith, a particular account of the duties or taxes collected and received by him from the masters of European vessels trading to these islands, under and by virtue of the last transient tax act.

Ordered, That the militia bill be read a third time, with the amendments.

On motion of Mr. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Hunter, that the amendment made in the committee of the whole house to the said bill, to wit, "and the other members of the assembly," after the words "the members of his majesty's council, and the speaker," be now left out, the house divided.

The yeas went forth, 11—Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Carr, Mr. North, Mr. Eve, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Mackey, Mr. Begbie, and Mr. Cunningham.

Nays,

Nays, 11—Mr. Haven, Mr. Wyll, Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Dames, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dean, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Sweeting.

Mr. Speaker declared for the nays.

So it passed in the negative.

The bill was then read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 5th December, 1795.*

The house met, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 7th December, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the assessment bill be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

The receiver general and treasurer, agreeable to order, attended, and laid before the house, the following report on the transient tax.

*The receiver general and treasurer, in answer to the message he had the honour of receiving this morning from the honourable house of assembly, begs leave to inform the house, that he did not receive one shilling from any person whatsoever from Europe, during the existence of the transient act.*

*On the arrival of Mr. Marsh, it was his intention to make him pay the duty, and forbade him to land his goods until he had produced his invoices and entered into bond; which on his refusing to do, (having taken the advice of counsel) the treasurer thought it necessary to do the same, and made an application to Mr. Kerr, who gave his opinion, that he ought not to exact the duty, provided he would make oath, that he intended to become a settler in these islands.*

*Captain Cosnahan, who was the next transient person, was in the same situation.*

*As to the masters of the European vessels, if they imported any goods, it never came to his knowledge until the last arrival of Captain Gillespie, who, he was informed, was concerned in trade with Mr. Jones; but the act was then expired.*

*The receiver general and treasurer begs leave further to add, that in the manifests delivered into his office, on the entry of vessels from Europe, a major part of the consignments are "to order." It is therefore very probable, that some of the masters have taken the advantage of it.*

*He begs leave further to observe, that if he is not empowered to administer an oath, and authorized to demand the inspection of their invoices, with a power to seize all goods that are not entered, that the transient tax, so far as relates to them, will be of very little consequence to the revenue of the country.*

*Nassau, 5th December, 1795.*

Ordered, That the report do lie on the table.

Mr. Fergusson, agreeable to leave given, brought in a bill for establishing schools in the several islands therein named, and providing



viding masters duly qualified to teach the same ; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Taylor be a committee to carry the following bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto, viz. the revenue bill, vendue bill, assessment bill, transient bill, militia bill, and the bill to amend the act for regulating the fees of the public officers ; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

A message from the council, with the market bill and an amendment made thereto, also with the quarantine bill and an amendment made thereto ; to which the council request the concurrence of the assembly.

On motion, Ordered, That the deficiency bill be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill for improving and embellishing the Strand or Bay of the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence ; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday, 8th December, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from Luke Rushton and William Grace, schoolmasters ; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the following message be sent to the council :

*The house of assembly request a conference with the council on the proposed amendments of their board to the quarantine and market bills ; and if the council agree thereto, the house of assembly have appointed four of their members to meet a committee of the council, at such time and place as the board shall appoint.*

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Sweeting be a committee to carry the above message, and also the engrossed deficiency bill, and request the concurrence of the council thereto ; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Mr. Wyllly, from the committee appointed to bring in a police bill, reported the same ; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

R

Ordered,

Ordered, That Mr. Wyly, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Thomas Forbes, be a committee to meet a committee of the council on the conference.

Ordered, That the bill for improving and embellishing the Strand or Bay of the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

A message from the council :

*The council inform the assembly, that they agree to a conference with a committee of their house, on the amendments to the quarantine and market bills, and have appointed Mr. Miller and Mr. Chrystie to be a committee of their board for that purpose.*

*Council chamber, 8th December, 1795.*

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 9th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

A message from the council, with the revenue and assessment bills, passed by their board.

Ordered, That the police bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill be committed to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

M. O'Halloran presented a petition from Alexander Ross, praying for relief respecting duties or taxes paid on French negroes, who were afterwards exported; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Kelly be a committee to carry the bill for improving and embellishing the Strand or Bay of the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence, to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

A message from the council, with the vendue and transient tax bills, passed by their board.

Mr. Mackey represented to the house, that the necessity of his private concerns required him to request leave of absence.

Ordered, That he have leave of absence accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Thursday, 10th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the school bill be read a second time.

Read



Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That this house will resolve itself into a committee of the whole house upon the said bill to-morrow.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to meet a committee of the council in conference, on the amendments made by the council to the market and quarantine bills, reported, that the committee had recommended to the committee of the council, to propose that the former amendment made by their board to the market bill be withdrawn, and the following adopted instead thereof, viz.

“ Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend  
 “ or be construed to extend to butcher’s meat killed by order of  
 “ any owner or possessor of any known plantation or pen, whose  
 “ servant or servants shall produce a ticket from his or their master or employer, authorizing him and them to carry such butcher’s meat to market, and specifying the quantity and kind  
 “ thereof.”

Which was agreed to.

And the committee further reported, that they had agreed with the committee of the council on the amendment made by their board to the quarantine bill.

Resolved, That the house do agree to the report.

Ordered, That Mr. O’Halloran and Mr. Hunter be a committee to carry the following message to the council:

*The house of assembly acquaint the council, that they have agreed to the report of the committee of conference of both houses, on the amendment proposed to the market bill, instead of the former made by their board to the same; to which they request the concurrence of the council.*

*The assembly agree to the amendment proposed by the council, of “ one shilling” being inserted in the said bill, instead of “ sixpence,” for the use of the measures.*

*And they also acquaint the council, that they have agreed to the amendment made by their board to the quarantine bill.*

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered. That the receiver general and treasurer do lay before the house, a particular account of all sums received by him for interest, and from whom; also an account of all interest now due on the outstanding debts of the Public; likewise an account of the persons, from whom taxes have been received for French negroes, and what taxes are yet due thereon.

On motion of Mr. Wylly, Resolved, That a committee be appointed to make a report to this house, of all such acts or parts of acts of the parliament of Great Britain, as now are, or in the opinion of the committee ought to be declared in force within these islands, and also of such acts of the general assembly as are now in force; and to contract for, and superintend and direct the copying and printing of such acts, as may by them be deemed necessary, and to distribute the same; and that this house will make good the expences attending the same.

Ordered,

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Haven, Mr. Kelfall, and Mr. Carmichael, be a committee for that purpose.

A message from the council:

*The council acquaint the assembly, that they have agreed to the report of the committee of both houses, appointed to confer upon the amendments made by their board to the quarantine and market bills, and agree to the amendments made thereto.*

*Council chamber, 10th December, 1795.*

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the police bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Resolved, That this house will again to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole house upon the said bill.

Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill to amend the New Providence road act; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Read a second time.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 11th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Haven, with leave, brought in a bill for giving validity in these islands to probates to be taken in the United States of America; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

Mr. Taylor, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for regulating the coasting trade of these islands, for establishing the rates of freight to be taken and received by the owners and masters of coasting vessels trading between the port of Nassau and the several islands within this government, and for other purposes therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the police bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And



And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be read a third time, with the amendments.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

Ordered, That the bill to amend the New Providence road act, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the school bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Wyly, Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governor :

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to inform your excellency, that certain bills are now pending in the house, some of the regulations proposed by which are intended to prohibit the keeping of gunpowder and naval stores in the town and suburbs of Nassau.*

*They therefore request, that your excellency will be pleased to appoint and allot a fit and convenient place or places, for erecting a magazine for the storing of gunpowder belonging to merchants and other private persons, and for erecting sheds for naval stores.*

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 12th December, 1795.*

The house met, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 14th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the bill for giving validity in these islands, to probates to be taken by certain officers in the United States of America,

America, of deeds to be there executed, and also to exemplifications of wills there proved, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour :

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have several bills prepared for your excellency's assent, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to receive them with the same.*

Ordered, That Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Eve, Mr. North, and Mr. Carr, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the above message, and also with the message of Friday last; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof, and that his excellency was pleased to say, he would send an answer to the house.

Ordered, That Mr. Haven and Mr. Dames be a committee to carry the police bill, the bill to amend the New Providence road act, and the bill for giving validity to probates taken in the United States of America, to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to inquire into the allegations set forth in the petition of Joseph Eve, reported,

That they had inquired fully into the several matters stated in the petition, and respectfully submit the result to the consideration of the house.

That it appears to your committee, that the petitioner, after an unremitted application of more than ten years, has at length accomplished an object of the first magnitude, not only to the planters of these islands, but of every other country in which cotton is a staple commodity, and into which the use of his very ingenious machine for ginning, or separating the seed from the wool, may be introduced; and it is with regret your committee are obliged to add, that in the pursuit of this object, (which though often attempted, has never till now been attained) the petitioner has very materially embarrassed and injured his circumstances.

That your committee believe, the experience of every planter in this colony will warrant them in asserting, that it is impossible for the most inattentive not to have witnessed the ease and speed with which the once tedious and laborious process of fitting our staple commodity for market, may now be effected by the adoption of the petitioner's machine; while at the same time, every friend to humanity must rejoice at seeing our slaves relieved from a species of labour, which has been injurious to many, and severe to them all; and that the cultivation of cotton in these islands, will thus no longer be attended with any painful exertion whatever.

That



That it has been demonstrated to your committee, that the advantages to be derived to the cotton planter from the use of this ingenious invention, are equivalent to the labour of at least eight negroes; as it is certain that this machine, attended only by two men, will clean more cotton, and do it in a more effectual manner, than what was usually accomplished by ten negroes with the common foot gin.

That, estimating the quantity to be ginned by a taskable negro at 30 pounds of clean cotton *per diem*, with the common foot gin, and that ginned by Mr. Eve's machine at the medium rate of 300 pounds weight, and valuing the labour of 10 negroes at 4 shillings *per diem*, it will follow, that the cost of ginning a crop of 1000 tons of cotton by the common foot gin, will amount to the sum of 13,333l. 4s. while a crop of the same amount may be prepared for market by Mr. Eve's machine, at the small expence of 2,666l. 12s.

That other advantages will also be obtained by the planter from the use of this machine, which, though they cannot be exactly ascertained, are nevertheless of considerable importance. Among these may be reckoned, the diminution in the expence of building cotton and gin houses, the enabling him to avoid many risks and inconveniencies, by sending his crop so much sooner to market than he could formerly do, and by directing his whole force and attention to his fields, at the season when they are most wanted there.

That your committee consider Mr. Eve's invention as a matter of considerable moment, not only as it may be of immediate advantage to the planter, but as it promises to be beneficial in other points of view, to the colony at large. It is the opinion of your committee, that no where else can the manufacture of these machines be carried on so advantageously as in these islands; for in no other country can wood proper for the purpose be so easily obtained, if it can be procured at all. And an obvious consequence attending the establishment of the manufactory here (if carried to the extent we have reason to expect) will be the attracting hither a number of useful and industrious mechanics, and the affording a valuable article of export to the other colonies engaged in cotton planting.

That it is unnecessary for your committee to state, that to reward the exertions of genius, when directed towards the diminution of labour, has long been a grand object of national consideration. The petitioner may perhaps regret, that his abilities have not been exercised in a country more equal to the task of encouraging his talents, and rewarding his labours; but your committee trust, that when the importance of his invention shall have been duly estimated, the legislature of these islands will not hesitate to grant him such remuneration, and other advantages, as may be consistent with the circumstances and ability of the colony.

That

That to ascertain with accuracy, the amount and extent, to which the legislature ought to go, has been the most difficult part of the duty imposed upon your committee, by the order of the house. In forming an estimate on this head, two questions have naturally occurred to their consideration :

- 1st. As to the importance and value of the invention :
- 2d. As to the ability of the colony to grant a sufficient remuneration to Mr. Eve, or, more properly, to pay him a sufficient price for the discovery.

The first of these points has already been ascertained in the outset of this report, by which it has been demonstrated, that this invention will be the means of saving to the planters of this colony, the sum of 10,666l. 12s. in the single expence of preparing for the market, a crop of no more than one thousand tons, or two millions of pounds, of cotton ; and if so much money may be annually saved, those very savings at once prove the ability of the colony, and themselves afford the means to remunerate Mr. Eve.

That your committee further submit, that in their opinion Mr. Eve is justly entitled to the same liberal reward for the discovery of his invention, as if it still remained a secret with himself ; because his having made it known, must have proceeded either from the necessity of his circumstances, or from his confidence in the liberality of the Public : And it is impossible to admit an idea, that the legislature can take advantage of the one, or fall short of the other.

That were the clear profits arising from the use of the machine to be applied, for a certain term of years, as a consideration to be offered the petitioner for the purchase of his invention, the colony could lose nothing by such a bargain, during that period ; and would afterwards be a gainer to an immense amount. But Mr. Eve's expectations extend to nothing of that magnitude. He will be satisfied with such a sum, as may be sufficient to extricate him from the embarrassments, in which he has involved himself, by his endeavours to bring his discovery to the perfection which it has attained ; and has mentioned the sum of 4000l. which your committee consider a very moderate price for the purchase of an invention, which in all moral certainty will be the means of saving this colony, at the very lowest calculation, the sum of 74,666l. 4s. in the course of the next seven years.

But, as it might be inconvenient at once to levy that sum, your committee recommend, that an annuity of 840l. be granted the petitioner for the term of seven years, which will be equal to the principal and interest of 4000l. They are moreover of opinion, that the best means of raising the money will be by a tax upon the gins themselves ; by which means, the petitioner will be rewarded at the cost of those who are the immediate and greatest gainers by his invention : And your committee are of opinion, the planters will cheerfully pay the tax, when they perceive that



four days work of the machine will clear a sum sufficient for the purpose.

That the number of gins built upon Mr. Eve's principle, now in use in these islands, is computed to amount to about 140; but in the event of a peace, it is extremely probable the number will very soon be doubled; in which case, the sum to be granted the petitioner, may be levied within a proportionably shorter period.

That your committee therefore recommend, that a clause or clauses be inserted in one of the money bills, imposing a tax of 6l. *per annum*, upon every gin, made, or to be made or altered, upon the principle of that invented by the petitioner, to be paid by the planter using the same, for the term of seven years, or until the tax shall produce the aggregate sum of 5,850l.

And, in order that the petitioner may be induced to continue his manufactory in these islands, that the planters of this colony may have the benefit of the improvements which his ingenuity has lately made, or may hereafter make, upon the original invention, and to prevent other persons from robbing him of the advantages to which the exertions of his talents and industry give him an exclusive and undoubted claim, your committee further recommend, that a gratuity of 10l. *per annum*, be allowed the petitioner, upon every gin made upon his principle and without his permission, by any other person; and that a tax to that amount be imposed on every such gin for the term of seven years, provided the petitioner shall so long live, and shall keep up his manufactory in any part of these islands.

Ordered, That the report do lie on the table, agreeable to the rule of the house.

On motion of Mr. Dugald Forbes, Resolved, That this house will form itself into a committee of the whole house to-morrow, on the treasurer's books and accounts; and that the treasurer be ordered to attend.

On motion, Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do forthwith lay before this house, a state of his accounts up to this date, stating the particulars of all monies received and paid.

A message from his excellency the governor, by the public secretary:

*Mr. Speaker,*

*His excellency the governor commands the attendance of this house in the council chamber immediately, with such bills as are ready for his assent.*

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor; and being returned, Mr. Speaker from the chair reported, that the house having waited on his excellency the governor in the council chamber, his excellency had been pleased to give his assent to the following bills, viz.

" An act for laying duties upon sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, therein mentioned, for the purpose of raising a revenue

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—one for the support of this government ; and directing how the same shall be collected and applied.”

“ An act for imposing and laying certain rates, assessments, and taxes, for the year therein mentioned ; and directing how the same shall be collected and applied.”

“ An act for laying a duty or tax upon the gross sales of all property that may be sold at public auction, or otherwise by vendue masters on commission, within these islands ; except in such cases as are therein excepted.”

“ An act for laying a tax on transient persons, trading to and amongst the islands within this government.”

“ An act for the erecting and repairing of churches, for the maintenance of the ministers of the gospel, and the support of the poor, in the several islands and districts therein named ; and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

“ An act for appointing George Chalmers, esquire, agent in Great Britain, to solicit the passing of laws, and for transacting in Great Britain other public affairs of these islands ; and for empowering the members of his majesty’s council, the speaker and members of the assembly for the time being, as occasion shall require, to give instructions for such his management.”

“ An act for making, amending, repairing, and keeping in repair, the public streets and highways in the island of New Providence ; and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

“ An act for regulating the pilotage of the bars of the harbours in and about the island of New Providence, for the better securing of vessels within the harbour of Nassau, and for suspending several acts therein mentioned.”

“ An act for the establishment of a powder magazine, for the better regulating the office of powder receiver, for the payment of an impost of powder on the tonnage, and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

“ An act to amend an act, intituled, *An act to oblige all vessels to perform quarantine, that shall come to this port with any contagion on board, or from places where contagious distempers rage* ; and to establish further regulations respecting the quarantine to be performed by vessels arriving under certain circumstances from foreign ports.”

“ An act to amend and continue an act passed in the 20th year of his present majesty, intituled, *An act for regulating the general courts within these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned*.”

“ An act for the better regulation of juries.”

“ An act for regulating the inferior court in the island of New Providence, for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts ”

“ An act for the better regulation of the office of provost marshal, for appointing constables, and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

“ An act for building gaols, and appointing gaolers and constables, in the several islands and districts therein mentioned.”

“ An



"An act to oblige masters of vessels and other persons to give security in the secretary's office."

"An act to empower the governour, or commander in chief, of these islands to issue writs for the choice of members, to serve in the room of such members who shall die, or shall be called up to the council of these islands, during the recess of the assembly; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

"An act for reviving and continuing an act, passed in the 29th year of his present majesty's reign, intituled, *An act for exempting the masters of certain vessels from giving security in the office of secretary of these islands.*"

"An act for suspending an act, intituled, *An act for the encouragement of foreigners and strangers settling in these islands.*"

"An act to empower the governour, or commander in chief for the time being, with the consent of the council, to prohibit the exportation of provisions from these islands."

On motion of Mr. Wyly. Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governour:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to inform your excellency, that they are about to vote a considerable sum of money, for the purpose of building a good and sufficient common gaol and house of correction, upon the public lot in the town of Nassau; and would therefore submit to your excellency's consideration the expediency of passing an act for the purpose of appointing commissioners with authority to sell the premises, on which the present common gaol stands, as soon as another sufficient gaol shall be erected and prepared for the confinement of prisoners; and to apply the money arising from such sales, towards the expences of the buildings proposed to be erected.*

Ordered, That Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Eve have leave of absence.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Tuesday, 13th December, 1795.

#### PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dean, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Sweeting, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the message of yesterday; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the treasurer's books and accounts.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Wednesday,

Wednesday, 16th December, 1795.

PRAYERS

A message from his excellency the governor, by his private secretary :

Mr. Speaker,

*I am commanded by his excellency the governor, in answer to your message of Monday last, to inform the house, that his excellency agrees to the proposal of the house, respecting the disposing of the lot of land, whereon the present common gaol stands, as soon as another shall be erected, and fit for the reception and confinement of prisoners.*

The house, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the treasurer's books and accounts.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the treasurer's books and accounts, and had come to the following resolutions; which they recommend to be adopted by the house.

1. That it be recommended to the house, not to make provision in future for the payment of any fees to the solicitor general or other counsel, unless the retaining or consulting such counsel be desired in writing by the attorney general.

2. That a committee be appointed, to inquire and report to the house, what ammunition, stores, and other articles, purchased at the expence of the Public for the use of the armed vessels Two Brothers, Phoenix, and Tickler, ought to have been accounted for when those vessels were paid off, and how far the same have been accounted for; and also, whether any and what articles appear by the vouchers produced to have been purchased, which were not necessary for the equipping and arming the aforesaid vessels; and whether the disbursements were in general properly made or not.

3. That in an account of the state of the treasury, rendered by the receiver general to this house, on the 1st day of this instant December, and made up to the 30th day of November last, there was the following item :

" By cash received for taxes on French negroes, interest, &c.  
768l. 14s. 7d."

That by another account, yesterday rendered to the house by the receiver general, in consequence of the order made on the 10th instant, it appears, that the sum received for taxes and duties on French negroes, amounted to 1156l. 19s. 5d. and for interest, 138l. 8s. 3d. making 1295l. 8s.

So that there is a difference between the two accounts of no less than 526l. 13s. 5d. of which no entry whatever appears to have been made in any of the receiver general's books laid before the house. Nor has the receiver general, in the account last rendered, specified



specified the names of the persons, by whom the payments were made, the times when paid, or what taxes are now due; and that he has not, in other respects, complied with the aforesaid order.

That the receiver-general having declared to the committee, that he has no books except those already produced, the committee are utterly unable to ascertain the amount of monies received or paid by the receiver general, since the 25th day of September, 1703.

4. That it appears to the committee, the receiver general has been extremely irregular in his interest account, or rather that he has not kept any interest account at all; and that he has received some money for interest, for which he has neither accounted, nor made any entry in his books.

5. That the sums of 5l. 14s. and 20l. appear to have been paid to the attorney general on the 25th of June, 1794, and a further sum of 32l. 4s. on the 25th of September, 1795; which ought to be stopped and deducted out of the amount of any salary now due to him.

6. That the receiver general ought to be charged with the sum of 5l. 14s. paid the solicitor general, and with the sum of 10l. 7s. 5d. paid to John Wells; which sums have been improperly charged by him against the Public.

7. And, that the committee have not been furnished with vouchers, to enable them to report upon the sum of 2044l. 7s. paid Alexander Ross, esquire, late commissary of provisions for the militia; and upon the sum of 149l. 19s. 7d. paid John O'Halloran, esquire, late captain of the grenadier company of the New Providence militia.

Resolved, That the house do agree to the report of the committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Begbie, and Mr. Webster, be a committee to inspect the public bonds, and also any books and accounts relating to the revenue of the colony, which may still remain in the hands of the receiver general, and to require him to produce the same forthwith to this house.

Ordered, That Mr. Carr, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Cunningham, be a committee to inquire and report to the house, on the stores and ammunition purchased for the armed vessels Two Brothers, Phoenix, and Tickler.

A message from the council, with the following bills, viz. the bill for improving the Strand or Bay of Nassau, the bill for giving validity in these islands to probates, &c. taken in the American States, and the bill to amend the New Providence road act, passed by their board; and also the bill to prohibit the selling, purchasing, or hiring of certain foreign slaves, with several amendments made thereto.

The house took the amendments made by the council to the said bill into consideration, and agreed to the same.

Ordered, That the bill for appointing additional commissioners and trustees for the public lot, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.  
 Resolved, That the bill do pass.  
 Ordered, That Mr. Dames have leave of absence.  
 The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour  
 after nine of the clock.

*Thursday, 17th December, 1755.*

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the school bill be read a third time.  
 Read a third time accordingly.  
 Resolved, That the bill do pass.  
 Mr. Haven presented a petition from Moses Franks, esquire,  
 attorney general; which was read  
 Resolved, That the petition be rejected, on the principle that  
 the matter and prayer thereof had been already provided for.  
 The house, according to order, took the report of the committee  
 on the petition of Joseph Eve, esquire, into consideration, and  
 came to the following resolution:  
 Resolved, That the house do adopt the report of the committee  
 so far as, that the petitioner is entitled to remuneration from the  
 Public for the invention of his cotton machine, and that leave be  
 given to bring in a bill for that purpose.  
 Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Thomas Forbes, and Mr. Kel-  
 fall, be a committee to bring in the same.  
 Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill for appointing and  
 enabling commissioners to examine, take, and state the public ac-  
 counts of these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned;  
 which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.  
 Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.  
 Read a first time accordingly.  
 Read a second time.  
 Resolved, That the said bill be committed to a committee of  
 the whole house to-morrow.  
 Mr. Dugald Forbes, with leave, brought in an ordinance for  
 settling a salary on his excellency the present governour and com-  
 mander in chief; which he read in his place, and delivered in at  
 the table.  
 Ordered, That the ordinance be read a first time.  
 Read a first time accordingly.  
 Read a second time.  
 Resolved, That the ordinance be committed to a committee of  
 the whole house immediately.  
 The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee  
 of the whole house, on the ordinance.  
 Mr. Speaker left the chair.  
 Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.  
 Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.  
 And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported, that they  
 had gone through the ordinance, without making any amendment  
 thereto.

Ordered,



Ordered, That Mr. Thomas Forbes and Mr. Campbell be a committee, to carry the following bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto, viz. the school bill, and the bill for appointing additional commissioners and trustees for the public lot; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

A message from the council, with the bill for regulating the police of the town of Nassau, and the suburbs thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned; with several amendments made thereto.

The house took the amendments into consideration, and agreed to the same.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the public accounts.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Carmichael took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Carmichael, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

Resolved, That the committee sit again to-morrow.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 18th December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Wyll, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, and for other purposes therein mentioned, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

Ordered, That the bill be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for appointing and enabling commissioners to examine, take, and state the public accounts of these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Kelfall took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Kelfall, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be read a third time, with the amendments.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass, and ordered to be engrossed.

A message from the council, with the school bill, passed by their board; the bill for appointing additional commissioners and trustees for the public lot and buildings, with several amendments made

made thereto; which were agreed to by the house: Also, with the militia bill, and several amendments thereto.

Resolved, That the amendments made by the council to the militia bill, be taken into consideration this day three months.

Ordered, That the ordinance for settling a salary on his excellency the governour, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the ordinance do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly and Mr. Taylor be a committee, to carry the ordinance for settling a salary on his excellency the governour, and the bill for appointing and enabling commissioners to examine, take, and state the public accounts of these islands, to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

A message from the council, with the out island road bill, viz.

*The council have considered the bill, intitled, " An act for consolidating and reducing into one act, all the laws now in force, for making and repairing the roads, highways, and streets, within the several islands and districts therein named, and for other purpose, therein mentimed;" and are of opinion, that the imposts, taxes, and labour, laid on by the bill, are much too high in the present circumstances of the several islands mentioned therein; and therefore propose to the house, that the said imposts, taxes, and labour, should be reduced to one half of the rates specified in the bill.*

And with several amendments made to the said bill.

Resolved, That the message and amendments be taken into consideration this day three months.

Mr. O'Halloran, in his place, requested leave to bring in a bill for ordering and disciplining the militia.

Which was received, and read a first time.

Mr. Haven, in his place, requested leave to bring in a bill for the appropriation of certain sums of money.

Which was received, and read a first time.

Mr. Wyllly, in his place, requested leave to bring in a bill, for reducing into one act, all the laws now in force, for making and repairing the roads, highways, and streets, within the several islands therein mentioned.

Which was received, and read a first time.

Ordered, That the bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Resolved, That the house do resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, on the said bill.

The house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Haven took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Haven, from the committee, reported, that they had gone



gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill be engrossed,

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 19th December, 1795.*

The house met according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock,

*Monday, 21st December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That the militia bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the out island road bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Hunter and Mr. Stiles be a committee, to carry the militia and out island road bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported, that the council had adjourned.

Ordered, That the engrossed bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

On motion, that the bill do pass, the house divided.

The Nays went forth.

Nays, 4—Mr. Dean, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Fergusson, and Mr. Sweeting.

Yeas, 16—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dames, Mr. Webster, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. North, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Carr, Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Wylly, and Mr. Kelly.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. O'Halloran presented a petition from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, receiver general and treasurer; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table until the committee appointed to inspect the treasurer's books and accounts do make their report.

Resolved unanimously, That a clause be inserted in one of the money bills, for granting to the honourable John Brown, esquire, the sum of five hundred pounds, as a mark of the high sense entertained by the inhabitants of these islands, of the services by him rendered to them, as commander in chief, and in other public stations, during his long residence amongst them.

Mr. Hunter, from the committee appointed to inquire into and report to the house, what ammunition, stores, and other articles, purchased for the use of the armed vessels Two Brothers, Phoenix, and Tickler, ought to have been accounted for when those vessels were paid off, and how far the same have been accounted for; and also whether any and what articles appear, by the vouchers produced, to have been purchased, which were not necessary for the equipping and arming the aforesaid vessels, and whether the disbursements were in general properly made or not; delivered the following report:

That from a thorough investigation of the accounts of the aforesaid vessels, and from inquiries made of Captains Macdougall and Gibson, and Mr. Thomas Bill, the committee find, that the ammunition, stores, and other articles, which were brought into port by those vessels, were landed when they were paid off; and that the same have been fairly sold at vendue, and accounted for, excepting some trifling articles, which were accounted for to the satisfaction of the committee: And also, that every thing charged in the accounts of those vessels, appears to have been necessary for the arming and equipping thereof; that the whole of the accounts and disbursements appear to be very fairly and properly made; and that the committee approve of them generally.

Resolved, That the house do agree to the report of the committee.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday, 22d December, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Hunter and Mr. Stiles be a committee, to carry the bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; and also the militia and out island road bills; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Mr. Carmichael, from the committee appointed to inspect and examine the treasurer's books and accounts, and to report the state thereof to the house, made the following report:

That in obedience to the order of the house, your committee proceeded to the investigation of the receiver general and treasurer's books of accounts and vouchers; and the better to enable them to proceed therein, they requested him to lay before them the bonds, and every other voucher, which could substantiate the several debts due to the Public; also, the assessments for the several islands, and returns of monies collected, and taxes outstanding, for the year 1792; the assessments for the island of New Providence, and a statement of the monies collected, and taxes outstanding, for the year 1793.

The receiver general and treasurer attended your committee with the bonds and vouchers.

The



The first object of their investigation was the bonds due to the Public; which they found to stand as follows.

	£.	s.	d.
Walter Brown & Charles Dames, due 11 Oct. 1793,	43	10	0
Writ off 16 Dec. 1794,	12	0	0
Interest due thereon,		31	10 0
		6	12 6
Samuel Almy and Abraham Eve, 9 July, 1794,	382	0	0
Writ off 15 March, 1795,	34	6	0
Ditto 21 ditto,	100	9	0
	134	15	0
Interest due on said bond,		247	5 0
Thomas Bruce and James Stevens, 26 Feb. 1794,	770	16	7
Writ off 26 May, 1794,	410	0	0
		360	16 7
Interest due thereon,		57	15 6
John Massey and Thomas Darrell, due 16 Oct. 1794,	59	4	0
Interest due thereon,		5	10 7
Wm. Gibson, for self and John Miller, 19 Ap. 1795,	123	16	6
Interest due thereon,		6	12 0
Forbes, Munro, & Co. due 1 Oct. 1795,	283	7	11
Interest due thereon,		4	14 6
Ben. Lord, for self and Wm. Slater, 1 Oct. 1795,	1241	11	0
Interest due thereon,		20	14 0
A note of William Slater's, (not produced)	140	0	0
Interest due thereon, (6 months)		5	12 0
Hugh Dean and Mark Hamilton, due 1 Oct. 1795,	669	1	3
Interest due thereon,		11	1 2
George Kidd and Anth. Roxburgh, 21 Jan. 1795,	81	11	3
Henry Wood, for W. and J. Mofs, 26 Aug. 1794,	109	1	10
William and James Mofs, 18 Oct. 1794,	189	7	10
Henry Wood, for W. and J. Mofs, 28 Oct. 1794,	115	13	9
Thomas Eve and Andrew Seton,	106	3	9

The receiver general and treasurer further informed your committee, that he held a new bond of Messrs. Roxburgh and Thomson, for duties; in which was included the above bond of 81l. 11s. 3d.—that there was due on the same, 11l 4s. 5d. for interest, making in all, 321l. 7s. 10½d.—but he did not produce the bond.

Upon comparing the above bonds with the list of debts delivered in by the receiver general and treasurer, as an off-set against his balance, your committee found included in the bonds, the following sums due for interest, which had never been passed to the credit of the Public:

	£.	s.	d.
Roxburgh and Thomson,	11	4	5
William Slater and Co.	90	11	6
Forbes, Munro, and Co.	52	9	2
Dean and Hamilton,	31	0	5

Making in the whole, the sum of

£. 185 5 6

There

There is also a difference of 57l. 0s. 0½d. between the bond of Thomas Bruce and James Stevens and Forbes and Stevens's debt, charged in the receiver general and treasurer's list. As your committee have seen no other charge in the public books against those persons, there is every reason to suppose that this is also interest calculated on their bond; which will make the interest account amount in the whole to 242l. 38s. 6½d. with which the treasurer ought to be charged.

Upon a farther investigation of the list of debts delivered in by the receiver general and treasurer, your committee find the following sums included therein, with which he has never charged himself in any public book, but which he has charged to the country, as an off-set against his balance, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Robert Hunt, for taxes and duty on a French negro,	65	12	0
Robert Sterling, said to be arrears of taxes,	9	7	6
Harry Webb, duty on 3 French negroes,	90	0	0
Dr. Coakley, said to be for taxes,	15	6	0
William Telfair, duties collected at Exuma,	229	5	3
John Martin, said to be for taxes,	20	12	0
John Mackenzie, for duty on 19 French negroes,			
petitioned for by Alexander Ross,	95	10	0
2 purchased by himself,	10	0	0
2 purchased by John Macdonald,	10	0	0
Nett proceeds of provisions belonging to the Public, sold by order of Alexander Ross,	63	12	0
Taxes on John Macdonald's 2 negroes for 1794,	20	0	0
Taxes on his own,	20	0	0
	218	12	0
Amounting in the whole, to the sum of	£.649	14	9

Which ought also to be carried to the debit of the receiver general and treasurer, and an entry made thereof in the public books.

As it was the wish of your committee to come at a particular statement of the different charges, and to know from what fund they arose, they requested the treasurer to produce the books wherein they were entered; whereupon he produced one, which he said was his private memorandum and letter book, from which he read to your committee the sums and items before stated; but said he could not give it up, nor permit your committee to inspect it. All therefore they can report thereon is, that it contained a number of memorandums, both public and private, jumbled together in a careless irregular manner, from which nothing could ever have been recovered, in case of the death of the receiver general and treasurer.

In his list of outstanding debts, are also the following sums, viz. 40l. due by John Wells, and 29l. 12s. by James Gow, accounted for as cash paid, or lent, in part of their demands against the Public. These sums standing to the credit of the country, must consequently become a debit against the receiver general and treasurer's balance.

The



The other sums mentioned in the list, your committee suppose to be right, there appearing debits in the books for the respective sums against the persons therein mentioned,

The next object for the investigation of your committee, was the duties and taxes on French negroes; and in order to ascertain the number of negroes imported liable to the 30l. duty, the treasurer was requested to lay before your committee the names of the vessels wherein they were imported, the names of those who had paid the duty, and of those exported pursuant to the act imposing the duty; which, he informed the committee, was out of his power, having never kept any book for that purpose. But he produced his private memorandum book, wherein he had entered several sums of money received on that account; and, on your committee demanding to know, whether the entries were made therein on the dates they appeared to be entered, he acknowledged they had been copied in some weeks ago, from a loose sheet of paper, which he afterwards tore up and destroyed.

Upon your committee inquiring into the 3l. tax, and into the amount received from it, the receiver general and treasurer referred them to the list delivered in by William Jones, esquire, judge of the inferior court; and on his being requested to shew from any book or memorandum in his possession an entry of the sum of 768l 14s 7d. accounted for by him as "received on account of French negroes, interest, &c." he said, that he could not, as it was erroneous.

The last object for the attention of your committee, was the taxes imposed by the assessment laws of 1792 and 1793; and on looking into the ledger, they found that several sums had been received subsequent to June, 1793, at which time the books were examined and passed. These appear to have been received from the following islands, viz. Cat island, Crooked island, Southern and Northern Districts of Long Island, Caicos, Andros Island, Harbour Island, Abaco, Watling's Island, and Eleuthera.

Your committee requested the receiver general and treasurer to lay before them the assessments for these islands, and the accounts of monies collected and transmitted to him by the several collectors, or any other voucher, to substantiate the entries made by him. This, he told them, he was unable to do, as he had either lost or destroyed them, on the supposition that no more monies could be collected, and that any vouchers were useless after he had given credit for them in the public ledger.

When your committee observed to him, that no taxes whatever had been accounted for from the Middle District of Long Island, for the year 1792, he informed them, that the gentlemen who were appointed assessors in that district, had not complied with the law; in consequence whereof, he had desired the attorney general to prosecute them; but that he could not account for the same not having been carried into execution.

Your committee then demanded of the receiver general and treasurer, the assessments for the Island of New Providence for the

year 1793; whereupon he produced the assessments for the Town of Nassau and the Western District. From these it appeared, that several sums had been collected, but that there still remained considerable sums due, which could be collected with the greatest ease.

The receiver general and treasurer further informed your committee, that there had been no assessment for the Eastern District returned, owing to the death of Mr. Falconer, and to the refusal of Mr. Carmichael to act; that he had commenced an action against Mr. Carmichael, and obtained a judgment for the penalty of 20*l*. But the court being of opinion at the trial, that it was a hard case, and that the action should not have been brought, unless he had been specially directed by the house of assembly so to do, he had declined taking any further steps, until the pleasure of the house should be known.

Upon the whole, your committee have only further to remark, that several sums of money have been received by the receiver general and treasurer, a long time previous to the accounts rendered to the house of assembly, and that no credit had been given to the Public for them, until he had been called upon by the house to make out the particular sums received for duties and taxes on French negroes, and for interest.

Your committee humbly submit a statement of the balance due by the treasurer to the Public, together with this report, to the consideration of the house; and are sorry to observe, that the same is not as complete as they wish; but that they could not render it more perfect, from the confused and irregular state of the receiver general and treasurer's books.

*Dr.*



Dr. The Receiver General and Treasurer, in Account Current with the Public of the Bahama Islands, Cr.			
1795.	1795.		
To balance in hand, and in debts, by virtue of the revenue laws of 1793, as per his books delivered to the house of assembly, £. 4482 13 1			£. 835 16 6
To ditto, by the act of his late majesty King George the second, as per ditto, 1629 3 2½	6112 1 3½		
To so much acknowledged to be received for duties and taxes on French negroes, not entered in the public books, but admitted by him to have been received prior to the 25th of September last, 1156 19 9			
To so much received for interest, admitted as above, 138 8 3			
To interest due on the following bonds in his possession, viz			
Walter Brown and Charles Dames, 6 12 0			
Abraham Eve and Samuel Almy, 35 7 10			
Thomas Bruce and Jas. Stevens, 57 15 6			
John Massey and Tho. Darrel, 5 10 7			
William Gibson and John Miller, 6 12 0			
Forbes, Munro, & Co. 4 14 6			
Carried over, £. 116 12 5	7407 9 3½		
		By sundry warrants from the governor in council, paid by him, as per list delivered in to the house of assembly, £. 835 16 6	
		By sundry accounts, said by him to be due to the Public, for which there appear to be no written acknowledgments, viz.	
		Robert Wilson, 20 1 7	
		Peter Wemyss, 35 7 6	
		John Marsh, 75 12 0	
		Alexander Taylor, 75 0 0	
		John Petty, 28 2 6½	
		Murray and Macbardy, 51 11 3	
		Robert Hunt, 66 12 0	
		Robert Sterling, 9 7 6	
		Harry Webb, 90 0 0	
		William Telfair, 229 5 3	
		John Coakley, 15 6 0	
		John Martin, 20 12 0	
		John Mackenzie, 218 12 0	
		To which add the following bonds and notes, with interest calculated thereon, viz.	
		Walter Brown & Chas. Dames, 38 2 6	
		Abraham Eve and Sa. Almy, 282 12 10	
		Tho. Bruce and Jas. Stevens, 418 12 1	
		John Massey and T. Darrel, 64 14 7	
		Wm. Gibson and John Miller, 130 8 6	
		Carried over, £. 1870 0 1½	835 16 6

Dr. The Receiver General and Treasurer, in Account Current with the Public of the Bahama Islands. Cr.

795.	Brought over, £. 116 12 5	7407 9 3	195.	Brought over, £. 170 0 1	835 15 6
William Slater and Benjamin Lord.	20 14 0		Forbes, Munro, & Co.	283 2 5	
Hugh Dean and Mark Hamilton,	11 1 2		W. Slater & B. Lord's bond and note,	1407 17 0	
William Slater's note of hand,	5 12 0		H. Dean & M. Hamilton,	680 2 10	
To so much interest included in the principal sum of bonds produced to us, the particulars of which are specified in our report,		153 19 7	W. & J. Mose's bonds, without interest being calculated,	414 3 5	
To sundry sums due to the Public, not entered in the revenue books, but admitted by him to be due, as per our report,		185 5 6	T. Eve & A. Seton, ditto,	1 6 8 9	
		649 14 9	Roxburgh & Thomson's bonds, without the same,	321 7 10	
				5088 2 4	
			[These bonds and accounts if substantiated by the receiver general and treasurer may stand as a set off against the balance due by him to the Public; but in case he does not substantiate them, he is answerable for the amount.]		
			By his commission on £. 22 <sup>4</sup> 7 10 charged in the debit side of this account, for which he has not credited the country in the books rendered by him to the house, but which is said to be due, at 6 per cent.		
				137 1 3	
				6061 0 1	
			[This commission will only become due on his receiving and paying the money]		
			By balance in the hands of the receiver general and treasurer, in cash,		
				2335 9 0	
				£. 8396 9 1	

N. B. The revenue arising from imports and exports, and other acts, since the 25th of September last, is to be added to the above balance.



Ordered, That the receiver general and treasurer do immediately lay before the house the original memorandum book, by him shewn to the committee of this house on Saturday last, and which, as appears by their report, he refused to deliver to the aforesaid committee, or to submit to their inspection.

The receiver general and treasurer, in answer to the order of the house of this day, addressed a letter to the clerk of the house, as follows :

Sir,

*I this moment received your message from the honourable house of assembly, desiring me to lay my private book before them.*

*Having already drawn out an account of every particular that relates to the Public, which was this morning delivered to the honourable house, and which I am willing to attest to the best of my knowledge, there remains nothing but copies of my letters and some private matters concerning myself, which I have to request their kindness in not insisting on an examination.—I must confess, that I acted wrong in blending them together, and hope the honourable house will forgive me.*

*I am, Sir,*

*Your very humble servant,*

*P. Dumaresq.*

*P. Edwards, Esq.*

*P. S. I would attend the honourable house, but I am not in a situation to do it.*

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the report of the committee appointed to inspect the receiver general and treasurer's books and accounts.

Mr. Speaker left the chair,

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the same, and had come to the following resolutions :

1. That it be recommended to the house, to present an humble address to his excellency the governor, praying his excellency will be pleased to remove Philip Dumaresq, esquire, from his office of receiver general and treasurer of these Islands.

2. That the house do agree to the report of the committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Hunter, be a committee to draw up an humble address to his excellency the governor, praying his excellency will be pleased to remove Philip Dumaresq, esquire, from his office, agreeable to the report of the committee.

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, and Mr. Webster, be a committee, to wait on his excellency the governor, with the following message :

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have several bills prepared for your assent, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to receive them with the same.*

Y

Who

Who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governour's absence.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock,

*Wednesday, 23<sup>d</sup> December, 1795.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee appointed to inquire into the complaint made to the house, respecting the detention of coasting vessels at Fort Montague, contrary to the established law, and custom heretofore exercised, reported, that having duly investigated the same, they find, that the commanding officer at that fort has, upon several occasions, detained vessels, vexatiously, improperly, and contrary to law.

Ordered, That the appropriation bill be read a second time.  
Read a second time accordingly.

Mr. Wyly, from the committee appointed to draw up an humble address to his excellency the governour, praying his excellency would be pleased to remove Philip Dumaresq, esquire, from the office of receiver general and treasurer, reported the same; which was agreed to, *nemine contradicente*, and is as follows:

*Bahama Islands.*

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, his majesty's lieutenant and governour general in and over the said islands, chancellor, vice admiral, and ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the general assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the house of assembly of the Bahama Islands, in general assembly met, are sorry to be under the necessity of representing to your excellency, that upon investigating the public accounts of Philip Dumaresq, esquire, his majesty's receiver general and treasurer of these islands, between the 25th day of June, 1793, and the 25th day of September last past, (as of right we have authority to do) we find, that the said receiver general and treasurer hath received divers large sums of money, for which he has not given credit to the revenue, and of which he has not kept any regular accounts, nor made any entries in the public books.*

*That by the express admission of the said receiver general and treasurer, he hath lost or destroyed divers assessment rolls, and other documents belonging to his office, whereby it has been rendered extremely difficult, if not utterly impossible, to bring him to a full and fair settlement of the public accounts.*

*That he hath withheld and refused to lay before this house, or to submit to the inspection of the committee of this house, certain original accounts, entries, and memorandums, relating to the receipt of the public money, although the same are admitted by him to be in his possession, and have repeatedly been demanded by this house.*

*That several of the public accounts, laid before this house by the said receiver general and treasurer, appear to have been kept in so loose, confused, and irregular a way, as to afford strong grounds of suspicion, that he has been guilty of many frauds against the revenue, which have not yet come to the knowledge of the house.*

*And*



*And, that this house will be ready, when thereunto required, to cause specific charges, in regard to the premises, to be exhibited and substantiated in such manner and form, as may be deemed necessary and proper.*

*I therefore this house doth humbly pray, that your excellency will be pleased to remove the said Philip Dumaresq, esquire, from the office of receiver-general and treasurer of these islands, and that your excellency will give orders to his majesty's attorney general to proceed against him and his sureties, for the balance due by him to the Public.*

*By order of the house,  
Thomas Roker, speaker.*

*House of assembly, 23d. December, 1795.*

Ordered, That Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Campbell, Mr. North, and Mr. Carr, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, to acquaint him, that the house having prepared an humble address to present to his excellency, request to be informed when he will be pleased to receive the same; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governor's absence.

A message from his excellency the governor, by the public secretary, commanding the attendance of the house in the council chamber immediately, with such bills as they have prepared for his excellency's assent.

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor; and being returned, Mr. Speaker from the chair reported, that the house having waited on his excellency the governor, his excellency had been pleased to give his assent to the following bills, viz.

"An act to amend an act passed in the 13th year of his present majesty's reign, intituled, *An act for the purchasing, and vesting in trustees therein named, for the use of the Public, a certain lot and space of ground in the town of Nassau, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*"

"An act for establishing schools in the several islands therein named; and providing masters duly qualified."

"An act for improving and embellishing the Strand or Bay of the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence."

"An act for regulating the public market in the town of Nassau, in the island of New Providence, and the assize of bread; for fixing the standard of weights and measures; and for the appointment of lumber measurers, and other purposes therein mentioned."

"An act to prohibit the selling, purchasing, hiring, or employing of certain foreign slaves, except as therein excepted; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

"An act for giving validity in these islands, to probates to be taken by certain officers in the United States of America, of deeds to be there executed, and also of exemplifications of wills there proved."

"An act for regulating the police of the town of Nassau, and suburbs thereof; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

"An

" An act to amend an act, intituled, *An act for making, amending, repairing, and keeping in repair, the public streets and highways in the island of New Providence, and for other purposes therein mentioned*."

" An act for the regulation of the salt ponds among the Bahama Islands, and for preventing abuses and waste in the raking and manufactory of salt."

And to address the house in the following words :

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the assembly,*

*The length of time which you have devoted to the public service, the season of the year, and your own private concerns, requiring your presence at your several habitations, will doubtless make a short recess necessary. I therefore think it proper to allow you to adjourn to Tuesday, the 9th day of February next; and you are hereby permitted to adjourn yourselves accordingly to Tuesday, the 9th day of February.*

DUNMORE.

*Council chamber, 23d December, 1795.*

Whereupon the house, according to his excellency's pleasure, adjourned until Tuesday, the 9th day of February next.

*Tuesday, 9th February, 1796.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and was adjourned, agreeable to the order of the speaker and the rules of the house, by the clerk, until to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 10th February, 1796.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

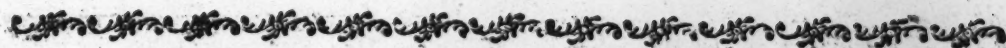
*Thursday, 11th February, 1796.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

*Friday, 12th February, 1796.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until to-morrow morning, nine of the clock; and was afterwards prorogued by his excellency the governor's proclamation, until Tuesday, the 16th day of February.





# VOTES

OF THE HONOURABLE  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
BAHAMAS ISLANDS.

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Tuesday, 16th February, 1796.

## PRAYERS.

THE house of assembly met, according to proclamation.—  
Mr. Begbie, Mr. Eve, Mr. North, and Mr. Dean, waited  
on his excellency the governor, and acquainted him therewith.

A message from his excellency the governor, by the public  
secretary:

*His excellency the governor commands the immediate attendance of this house  
in the council chamber.*

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor,  
when he was pleased to make the following speech:

Gentlemen of the council,

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,

*I am happy to meet you in so short a time after the recess, which the absence of  
the speaker of the house of assembly necessarily occasioned; and I flatter myself,  
that a steady continuance of your labours for the public good, will soon termi-  
nate your arduous task, and the community fully experience the good consequences  
resulting therefrom.*

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,

*It now remains with you to complete the important business you have so suc-  
cessfully begun, and thereby establish the credit and consequence of these islands  
upon a permanent foundation, with respect to revenue.*

Gentlemen of the council,

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,

*It gives me the sincerest satisfaction in congratulating you on the progress to-  
wards improvement, already made and continuing to extend throughout this grow-  
ing*

*ing colony; and you may rest assured of my hearty support and assistance in every measure calculated to the advancement of its welfare and prosperity.*

LUNMORE.

Council chamber, 16th February, 1796.

A committee was appointed to prepare an address, in answer thereto; and the house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

Wednesday, 17th February, 1796.

PRAYERS.

Ordered, That Mr. Mackey have leave of absence during the session.

The rules of the house were read.

The deputy secretary of the colony attended, agreeable to order, and informed the house, that neither Mr. Dumaresq, nor any other person acting as receiver general and treasurer, had entered into the security required by the revenue law, passed in the last session.

Mr. Wyly, with leave, brought in a bill, to suspend the several acts therein mentioned, and for other purposes; which was received, and read a first time.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to his excellency the governour, in answer to his speech, reported the same, as follows:

*Bahama Islands.*

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the house of assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the house of assembly of these islands, return your excellency our thanks for your speech on the opening of the session.*

*As the interruption to public business, occasioned by the late recess, has been of very short duration, we have no doubt of being able to accomplish the object of your excellency's recommendation with due dispatch; and hope to realize, in conjunction with the rest of our fellow subjects, the happy consequences resulting from wholesome law, and a due observance of them.*

*The establishment and extension of the public credit have always occupied the first place in our deliberations; and as there are no objects so interesting and dear to us, we beg leave to assure your excellency of our most arduous exertions for those important purposes.*

*We join most heartily in the sentiments of your excellency, with respect to the rapid improvement of these islands; and we are sensibly affected by the pleasure of your excellency's assurance of assistance and support in forwarding this great and essential business.*

*By order of the house,*

*Thomas Roker, speaker.*

House of assembly, 17th February, 1796.

Then a committee was appointed to wait on his excellency the governour with a message to acquaint him therewith, and request



to be informed when he would be pleased to receive the address; who reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governour's absence.

Mr. Wyllly moved, that the following address be presented to his excellency the governour:

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the house of assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the house of assembly of the Bahama Islands, feel it our duty equally to the king and our constituents, to take this early opportunity of expressing our concern, that a person labouring, after a minute inquiry by this house, under a charge of embezzling the public money, hath notwithstanding exercised the office of receiver general and treasurer of these islands, in opposition to the sentiments of this house, and contrary to an act passed in the last session of the general assembly, whereby it is enacted, "that it shall not be lawful for the receiver general to ask, demand, or receive, any rate or duty imposed by that act, or by any other act of the general assembly, until he shall have given security to his majesty in the sum of ten thousand pounds, for the due execution of his office;" which bond hath not been entered into by the said receiver general: So that either the whole revenue of the colony hath been lost since the passing of that act, or, if received, it has been received contrary to law.*

Mr. Carmichael moved the previous question.

The house having divided, resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill, intituled, *An act for appointing and enabling commissioners, to examine, take, and state the public accounts of these islands, and for other purposes therein mentioned;* which was received, and read a first time.

Mr. O'Halloran, with leave, brought in a bill for better ordering and disciplining the militia of these islands; which was received, and read a first time.

Mr. Kelsall, with leave, brought in a bill for reducing into one act, all the laws now in force for making and repairing the roads, highways, and streets, within the several islands and districts therein named; which was received, and read a first time: Also, a bill to oblige the several inhabitants of these islands, and owners of slaves therein, to provide themselves with a sufficient number of white men on their respective plantations, or pay certain sums of money, in case they shall be deficient; which was received, and read a first time.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Thursday, 18th February, 1795.*

#### PRAYERS.

The out island road bill was read a second and third time, and passed.

The militia bill was read a second time.

A message from his excellency the governour, acquainting the house, he was ready to receive them with their address.

The

The house accordingly waited on his excellency, and presented their address; and being returned, Mr. Speaker, from the chair, reported, that his excellency had been pleased to return the following answer:

*Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,  
I return you thanks for this zealous and loyal address. Your determination to pursue with attention, the important and salutary objects now brought so near a close, cannot but impress me with the greatest satisfaction, as it must ultimately tend to the general interest and happiness of the country, and prove a most solid and pleasing reflection to yourselves.*

DUNMORE.

*Council chamber, 18th February, 1796.*

A committee was appointed to wait on his excellency the governor with a message, to acquaint him that the house had prepared an humble address, and request to be informed when he would be pleased to receive the same; who reported the delivery of the message to his excellency's secretary, in the governor's absence.

Mr. O'Halloran presented a petition from Joseph Eve, esquire, praying an exclusive right of making certain machines for ginning and cleaning of cotton; which having been read, a committee was appointed to inquire into the allegations set forth therein, and report the same with their opinions thereon to this house.

Mr. Haven, with leave, brought in a bill for the appropriation of certain sums of money; which was received, and read a first time.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 19th February, 1796.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Haven moved, that the following address be presented to his excellency the governor:

*To his excellency the right honourable John, Earl of Dunmore, &c. &c.*

*The humble address of the house of assembly.*

*May it please your excellency,*

*We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the house of assembly of these islands, humbly beg leave to represent to your excellency, the dangerous consequences that result from so many French prisoners being confined on board the prison ships in this harbour, and the state of alarm in which the inhabitants of this town are kept from the dread of these prisoners, who are rendered in a great degree desperate, from the atrocity of their lives.*

*That they have repeatedly attempted to escape, and carry off vessels from the harbour; and not long since, a few of them carried off the cartel schooner, lying at anchor near Bell's Key.*

*That about eighteen days ago, eight of them had the audacity to board the schooner Sally, belonging to Messrs. William and James Moss, of this town, then lying at anchor in the harbour, under the guns of Fort Montague, laden with a valuable cargo; which vessel they carried effectually off.*

*That*



*That a few nights since, one of the prison-ships was attempted to be set on fire by the prisoners on board; and if the attempt had not been timely frustrated, much damage might have ensued.*

*That, independent of all these circumstances, the scarcity as well as high price of every necessary of life, renders the keeping so large a body of people here, highly injurious to the public interest.*

*The house of assembly, impressed with a sense of duty towards their constituents, are induced humbly to request, that your excellency will be pleased to give directions for the speedy exchange of the French prisoners of war in this harbour.*

Resolved, That the house do agree to the address, and ordered that the same be engrossed.

Mr. Kelsall, from the committee appointed to inquire into the allegations set forth in the petition of Joseph Eve, esquire, delivered in their report.

[The report is the same as that given in on Monday the 14th of December, in the last session.]

Resolved, That the report be taken into consideration on Monday next.

The appropriation bill was read a first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house, on Monday next.

The militia bill was read a third time, and passed.

The following message was sent to his excellency the governour:

*May it please your excellency,*

*The house of assembly beg leave to acquaint your excellency, that they have prepared an humble address, and request to be informed when you will be pleased to be waited on with the same.*

The committee appointed to wait on his excellency with the message, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governour's absence.

The deficiency bill was read a second time.

Mr. Dugald Forbes, with leave, brought in a bill to revive and continue an act for regulating the fees of the public officers therein named; which was received, and read a first time.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to contract for and superintend the printing of the laws passed in the last session, do report thereon to this house, on Monday next.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 20th February, 1796.*

The house met, according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 22d February, 1796.*

#### PRAYERS.

The committee appointed to contract for and superintend the printing of the laws passed in the last session, reported, that upon

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inquiry,

inquiry, they find that only one of the acts passed in the last session hath been printed, and that only one more is in the press; but that the printer offers to enter into a contract, under a proper penalty, to print all the acts passed in the last session, and to have them ready to be delivered to the committee by the first day of July next.

Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill, intituled, *An act for appointing a comptroller general of the colonial revenue of these islands, and for regulating the receipt and expenditure of the public monies*; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table.

The house, agreeably to order, took the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the allegations set forth in the petition of Joseph Eve, esquire, into consideration, and came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the house do adopt the report of the committee, so far as the petitioner is entitled to remuneration from the public, for the invention of his cotton machine; and that leave be given to bring in a bill for that purpose.

Mr. Kelsall, with leave, brought in a bill, intituled, *An act for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, and for other purposes therein mentioned*; which was received, and read a first time.

Read a second time.

Ordered, That Mr. Carr and Mr. Sweeting be a committee, to carry the militia and out island road bills to the council, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

Resolved, That the order of the day, respecting the appropriation bill, be postponed until to-morrow.

On motion, Ordered, That the fee bill be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday, 23d February, 1796.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Wyllly, with leave, brought in a bill, intituled, *An act for regulating the making and repairing of division walls or fences in the island of New Providence*; which was received, and read a first time.

The house in committee on the appropriation bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported progress, and requested leave to sit again.

Granted accordingly.

On motion, Resolved, That whereas it hath been represented to this house, that the sums to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the eastern



eastern district of the island of New Providence, under and by virtue of the present road act, will not be sufficient for the purposes intended by that act; and whereas the opening of the public road from the Hermitage to the eastern extremity of the island, will be highly advantageous, not only to the inhabitants of that district, but to the community at large, and it hath been represented, that a sufficient sum may be borrowed by the commissioners for that purpose, upon the credit of a vote of this house for the repayment of the same: Resolved, That this house will make good any sum that may be wanted for completing and opening the road to the eastern extremity of the island of New Providence, upon proof being made to the satisfaction of this house, that the aforesaid road from the Hermitage to the east end of the island hath been completed, and that the monies appropriated to the making of roads in the aforesaid district, have not been sufficient; provided, the deficiency do not exceed the sum of four hundred pounds.

Resolved also, That whereas it hath been represented to this house, that the sums to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the western district of the island of New Providence, under and by virtue of the present road act, will not be sufficient for the purposes intended by that act; and whereas the opening the public road from Charlotteville to the western extremity of the island, will be highly advantageous, not only to the inhabitants of that district, but to the community at large, and it hath been represented, that a sufficient sum may be borrowed by the commissioners for that purpose, upon the credit of a vote of this house for the repayment of the same: Resolved, That this house will make good any sum that may be wanted for completing and opening the road to the western extremity of the island of New Providence, upon proof being made to the satisfaction of this house, that the aforesaid road from Charlotteville to the west end of the island hath been completed, and that the monies appropriated to the making of roads in the aforesaid district, have not proved sufficient; provided, the deficiency do not exceed the sum of four hundred pounds.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 24th February, 1796.*

The house adjourned, *de die in diem*, until Wednesday, March 9th, 1796.

*Wednesday, 9th March, 1796.*

#### PRAYERS.

Mr. Wyllly presented a petition from Doctor John Macpherson, praying compensation for attending and administering medicines to

to the poor of the parish of Christ Church; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, Ordered, That James Minzies, esquire, his majesty's present receiver general and treasurer of these islands, do forthwith lay before this house, a schedule and account of all public books of account, bonds, and monies, by him received from the late receiver general and treasurer, Philip Dumaresq, esquire.

James Minzies, esquire, the present receiver general and treasurer, attended at the bar, and informed the house, that he had not received any public books of account, bonds, nor monies, from the late receiver general and treasurer; on which the Speaker intimated to Mr. Minzies, that it would be proper for him to demand of Mr. Dumaresq, the public books of account, bonds, and monies, which are in his hands, and to report thereon to the house.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, on the appropriation bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Dugald Forbes took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And Mr. Dugald Forbes, from the committee, reported, that the committee had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again severally read by the clerk, they were agreed unto by the house.

Ordered, That the bill for settling an annuity upon Joseph Eve, esquire, be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the deficiency bill be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the fee bill be read a third time.

Read a third time accordingly.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the bill for regulating the making and repairing of division walls or fences in the island of New Providence, be read a second time.

Read a second time accordingly.

Read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill do pass.

Ordered, That the consideration of the merits of Alexander Ross's petition, praying repayment of certain duties upon foreign negroes, be postponed until further proofs respecting the same can be adduced, to the satisfaction of this house.

Resolved, That the following message be sent to his excellency the governor:

*May it please your excellency,*

*We are ordered by the house of assembly to wait on your excellency, and to request you will be pleased to give directions for issuing a writ to choose a representative*



*representative for Cat Island, in the room of John Mullryne Tattnall, esquire, deceased.*

Ordered, That Mr. Webster, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. O'Halloran, and Mr. Dean, be a committee to wait on his excellency the governour with the message; who being returned, reported, that they had delivered the message, in the governour's absence, to his secretary.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, eleven o'clock.

*Thursday, 10th March, 1796.*

PRAYERS.

Mr. Dugald Forbes, with leave, brought in an ordinance, for settling a salary on his excellency the governour; which was received, and read a first time.

Read a second time.

Ordered, That the bill for appointing a comptroller general, be read a first time.

Read a first time accordingly.

James Minzies, esquire, his majesty's receiver general and treasurer, attended at the bar, and informed the house, that he had demanded the public books, bonds, and monies, of Philip Dumaresq, esquire, his majesty's late receiver general and treasurer, agreeably to the directions of the house, yesterday; but that Mr. Dumaresq refused to deliver the same, alledging that he had been advised to keep them in his hands.

On motion of Mr. Wyllly, Resolved, That the said Philip Dumaresq is guilty of a contempt of this house, in having contemned the orders of the same.

Resolved, That the Speaker do issue his warrant for taking the said Philip Dumaresq into custody, and that he be committed to the common gaol of these islands, there to remain until he shall have cleared himself of his contempt of this house.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 11th March 1796.*

PRAYERS.

James Minzies, esquire, receiver general and treasurer, attended at the bar of the house, and presented the following papers, which he had received from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, the late receiver general and treasurer, to wit:

A general account of the treasury, from the 25th of September, 1794, to the 31st of January, 1796.

An account of debts due the treasury, the 1st of January, 1796.

A state of the treasury, from the 31st of January, 1796, to the 22d of February following.

And a schedule of bonds.

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The receiver general and treasurer informed the house, that he had not received any books, or any further papers, accounts, or monies; and that the said Philip Dumaresq acquainted him, that he had petitioned the governour and council for a trial, and therefore conceived it necessary to retain the same in his possession until such trial should be had.

A committee was appointed to carry to the council, the deficiency bill, the bill for reviving and continuing the act for regulating the fees of the public officers, the bill for granting an annuity to Joseph Eve, the appropriation bill, and the bill for regulating the making and repairing of division walls or fences in the island of New Providence, and to request their concurrence thereto; who reported the delivery thereof.

The bill for appointing a comptroller general, and the bill for appointing commissioners to inspect and examine the public accounts, were read a second time.

The bill for limiting the duration of assemblies, was read a first time.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Saturday, 12th March, 1796.*

The house met according to adjournment, and adjourned until Monday morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Monday, 14th March, 1796.*

PRAYERS.

The Speaker laid before the house, the following letter, which he had received from the deputy receiver general and treasurer:

*Nassau, 14th March, 1795.*

Sir,

*As there is a clause in the revenue act, laying a duty upon all sugars and coffee imported for consumption into these islands, without excepting such as may be imported in foreign vessels, by authority of an act of parliament; I therefore wish to be informed, if it is the opinion of the house of assembly, that such duties ought to be collected.*

*I am respectfully,*

*Sir,*

*Your most obedient servant,*

*Robt. Thomson,*

*Dep. rec. gen. and trea.*

*The honourable Thomas Roker, esquire, }  
speaker of the house of assembly. }*

The house took the letter into consideration, and came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this house, that it was not intended by the act passed in the last session, intituled, *An act for laying duties upon sundry goods, wares, and merchandize, therein mentioned,*



tioned, for the purpose of raising a revenue for the support of this government, and directing how the same shall be collected and applied, to impose upon foreign sugars imported into these islands, any rate or duty, from which they were exempted by any act of parliament.

Mr. Kelsall moved, that the following message be sent to his excellency the governor :

May it please your excellency,

The house of assembly beg leave to submit to your excellency's consideration, that the general assembly hath now been sitting, with some short interruptions, since the 6th day of October last ; during which period, the house hath been arduously occupied in the discharge of its public duties, to the great inconvenience of its members, who have nevertheless persevered with all the zeal that might be expected of men devoted to the service of their king and country.

It is consequently with extreme regret, that this house is reduced to the necessity of expressing its disappointment and mortification, that its efforts to promote the public good, have received so little assistance from the other branches of the legislature ; and especially, that the communications of the house with your excellency have rarely been honoured with any attention whatever.

That this house, on the 2d day of December last, sent a message to your excellency, upon the subject of setting apart lands for glebes upon the several islands within this government, as recommended in a letter from one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state ; to which message, no answer hath been returned by your excellency.

That this house, upon the same day, sent another message to your excellency, respecting the appointment of justices of the peace upon the different islands ; to which no attention has been paid.

That this house, upon the 11th day of December, sent a message to your excellency, respecting the allotment of proper places for erecting a powder magazine, and sheds for naval stores ; of which message no notice hath been taken by your excellency.

That this house, on the 23d day of December, acquainted your excellency by a message, that they had prepared an humble address to your excellency, and requested to be informed when your excellency would be pleased to receive the same ; to which message no answer hath been returned.

That this house, on the 18th day of February, by another message, acquainted your excellency, that they had prepared another humble address to your excellency, and requested to be informed when your excellency would be pleased to receive the same ; but of this message no notice hath been taken.

That this house, on the 19th day of February, acquainted your excellency, that they had prepared another humble address to your excellency, and requested to be informed when your excellency would be pleased to receive the same ; to which message no answer hath been given.

That the aforesaid several messages and addresses have been upon subjects of great moment to the good order, safety, and interests of the colony, and have not therefore been unworthy of the attention of his majesty's representative. It is consequently with great regret that this house hath observed the neglect, with which they have been treated.

And this house beg leave further humbly to represent, that the public service of the colony hath been exposed to much inconvenience from the very small number of gentlemen, of which the legislative council is composed ; which board has for a long time consisted of only five members at the most.

Tired out with the fatigues of so tedious and unprecedented an attendance, and despairing of seeing our labours produce those benefits to the colony, which

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*we trust they have been calculated to promote, the house of assembly has only now to pray, that your excellency will be pleased to put an end to the session, in order that we may be permitted to return to our families and homes, from which many of us have so long been absent.*

The question being put, the house divided.

Resolved in the affirmative.

A committee was appointed to wait on his excellency the governor, with the message; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof to his excellency's secretary, in the governor's absence.

On motion of Mr. Wylly, Resolved, *nemine-contradicente*, That inasmuch as this house hath hitherto granted, and doth now grant, to his majesty's attorney general of these islands, an annual allowance, for his service in the collection of the colonial revenue and other prosecutions of a public nature; it is the sense of this house, that his majesty's said attorney general ought, with all due diligence, to prosecute any suit, or suits that may be necessary and proper for the recovery of all monies due to the treasury of these islands by Philip Dumaresq, esquire, his majesty's late receiver general and treasurer, or by any other person or persons.

Ordered, That the attorney general be furnished with a copy of the aforesaid resolution.

On the third reading of the ordinance for a salary to his excellency the governor, Mr. Dugald Forbes moved, seconded by Mr. Hunter, that the blank in the ordinance be filled up with the sum of "eight hundred pounds."

The house having divided, it passed in the negative.

Mr. Wylly moved, that the blank be filled up with the sum of "six hundred pounds"

Which was agreed to.

The ordinance was then read a third time, and passed.

The bill for limiting the duration of assemblies, was read a second and a third time, and passed.

The bill for appointing commissioners for inspecting and examining the public accounts, was read a third time, and passed.

On motion, that the bill for appointing a comptroller of the colonial revenue of these islands, &c. be read a third time, Mr. Carmichael moved, seconded by Mr. Wylly, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the third reading of the said bill be postponed until this day three months.

Which was agreed to.

A committee was appointed to carry to the council, the ordinance for the governor's salary, the bill for limiting the duration of assemblies, and the bill for appointing commissioners to inspect and examine the public accounts, and request their concurrence thereto; who being returned, reported the delivery thereof.

The house adjourned until to-morrow-morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Tuesday*



*Tuesday, 15th March, 1796.*

**PRAYERS.**

Mr. Thomas Forbes moved the following resolution :

Resolved, That the colonial agent be instructed, and he is hereby ordered, without loss of time, and in the most earnest terms, to solicit the attention of his majesty's ministers to the following subjects :

1st. The expedience of directing the governour to assent to an act for limiting the duration of our general assemblies to the term of seven years.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr. Haven, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dean, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 8—Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. North, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Eve, and Mr. Carr.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

2d. The justice and expedience of allowing the Turk's Islands, Caicos, Crooked Island, and Watling's Island, which have now become of importance, on account of their population, agriculture, and commerce, to send representatives to the colonial legislature.

The house divided.

For the question, 12—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Dean, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Eve, Mr. Dames, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 8—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. North, and Mr. Carr.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

3d. The expedience of increasing the number of the members of his majesty's legislative council, and of guarding against the admission of improper persons to that important station.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Webster, Mr. Dames, and Mr. Dean.

Against the question, 9—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Eve, Mr. Carr, and Mr. North.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

4th. The expedience of making some further regulations with respect to the issuing of the public money, passing and settling the public accounts, and appointing an officer to be a check upon the treasurer.

The house divided.

For the question, 12—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr.

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Kelfall,

Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dames, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Eve, Mr. Webster, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Begbie.

Against the question, 8—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. D. Forbes, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. North, and Mr. Carr.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

5th. The inconveniencies and dangers, to which this colony has been exposed, and the great loss of revenue which it has actually sustained, by the sudden dissolution of the last general assembly, by the long interval which elapsed before another was convened, and by the repeated prorogations which have taken place since the month of September, 1793.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Dean, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Webster, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Campbell.

Against the question, 9—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Carr, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. North, Mr. Eve, and Mr. Carmichael.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

6th. The many infringements, which have been offered by his majesty's present governour to the rights of the electors of these islands, and to the undoubted privilege of this house to decide upon all matters relating to the election of its members.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dean, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 9—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. North, Mr. Eve, and Mr. Carr.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

7th. The disrespect, which has in almost every instance marked the conduct of his majesty's said governour towards this house.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dames, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dean, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 9—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. North, Mr. Eve, and Mr. Carr.

8th. The unjustifiable and vexatious means, which have been used by his majesty's said governour, to screen a person charged by this house with embezzlement of the public money.

The house divided.

For the question, 11—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wyllly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dean, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 9—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Stiles, Mr. North, Mr.



Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Carr, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Eve.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

oth. The expedience and the justice of removing his majesty's said governour from the government of these islands.

The house divided.

For the question, 9.—Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Haven, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Dames, Mr. Dean, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Webster.

Against the question, 10.—Mr O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Eve, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. North, and Mr. Carr.

So it passed in the negative.

On motion, Ordered, That the Speaker do sign the foregoing resolutions and this order, and that the same be forthwith transmitted to the agent, by any five or more of the commissioners of correspondence.

The house divided.

Yeas, 11—Noes, 9.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

A message from his excellency the governour, by the public secretary :

*The governour acquaints the house of assembly, in answer to their message of yeste day, that the strict regard which the governour has ever shewn for the real advantage and happiness of these islands, has induced him to bestow a considerable degree of attention to the assembly's message of yesterday; and although some of the contents of it might with propriety be left unanswered, he waves every consideration of that nature, in order to reply to the different causes of dissatisfaction expressed by the house upon the subject of communication and messages.*

*In the first place, the governour does not conceive that the interruptions which may have happened to the business of the assembly since their meeting on the 6th day of October, and which the adjournments during the christmas holidays, the non-attendance of the speaker of the house agreeable to that adjournment, and the sitting of the general court occasioned, can be by any means ascribed to him; nor does the governour know of any backwardness in the other branch of the legislature, in promoting as far as lay in its power, the public good.*

*That the first message of the house on the 2d day of December, has been paid attention to, is evident, from the circumstances of lands having been set apart for glazes, agreeable to his majesty's instructions, whenever application was made by the incumbent of any parish for that purpose.*

*That the message of the house on the same day, was taken immediate notice of, and a new commission of the peace ordered; although the regulation of these matters belongs solely and exclusively to the executive branch of the government.*

*That the message of the house upon the 11th day of December, was so far attended to and complied with, that the governour pointed out a spot of land to one of the commissioners, which he conceived to be proper for the erecting of a powder magazine.*

*That the message of the house on the 23d day of the same month, was not received by the governour until after the adjournment of the general assembly*

sembly had taken place, consequently could not become the subject of consideration then.

That the communication of the house on the 18th of February, respecting the trench prisoners, could not be complied with, as it was upon a subject in which the house had no right to interfere.

That the message of the house on the 19th day of February, has been complied with, by the resignation of the receiver general and treasurer, and the appointment of another person to that office.

Thus it clearly appears, that none of the aforesaid messages and addressees have been unattended to; nor does it yet appear, the public service of the colony has been exposed to any inconvenience or delay, from the small number of gentlemen of the council, occasioned by the absence of several of the members of that board.

That the governor will gladly embrace the first opportunity of complying with the assembly's request, whenever the public business, in which the community are so deeply interested, shall have been accomplished, and he can consistently with his duty relieve them from the fatigue of their further attendance.

A message from the council, by the master in chancery, with the following bills, passed by that board, viz. the ordinance for the governor's salary, the bill for settling an annuity on Joseph Eve, esquire, the bill for the better ordering and disciplining the militia, the deficiency bill, the division wall bill, and the appropriation bill; and also with the following message:

The council have passed the appropriation bill, and at the same time acquainted the house of assembly, that they think it highly reasonable that the legislative clerk of their board should be put on the same footing in respect to salary, as the clerk of their house.

They wish also to observe that the salary of sixty pounds allowed to their messenger, is inadequate to the different services which he is required to perform, and are of opinion, that it should be advanced at least to eighty pounds per annum.

They further inform the house, that Mrs. Louisa Cornish was, at the beginning of the last session, appointed housekeeper to the board, and is certainly entitled to some provision.

Council Chamber, 15th March, 1796.

The receiver general and treasurer attended at the bar of the house, and delivered the following schedule of books of public accounts, bonds, and papers, received from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, late receiver general and treasurer, viz.

1 ledger, and 2 journals,

Town and eastern district assessments,

5 warrants, charged the 31st January,

5 ditto ditto 22d February,

1 iron chest,

Roxburgh and Thomson's bond,

	£.	100	2	10½
Indorsed,		127	9	7

£. 62 13 3½

James Minzies, Rec. gen. and trea.

Nassau, New Providence, 15th March, 1796.

And



And acquainted the house, that Mr. Thomson, his deputy, could best inform them of the state of the chest; who attended accordingly, and acquainted the house, that the late receiver general and treasurer informed him, it contained his private papers only. On which, the house ordered the deputy receiver general and treasurer to lay the books and accounts he had received from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, the late receiver general and treasurer, and also a state of the contents of the chest, before the house to-morrow.

The house took the petition of Doctor John Macpherson into consideration, and came the following resolution:

Resolved, That Doctor John Macpherson be allowed such reasonable compensation as the church wardens and vestry may think adequate to his services, in attending the poor of Christ Church parish, and administering medicines and advice to the same; and that this house will provide for the payment thereof.

Mr. Haven presented a petition from George Johnson, praying for a further compensation than that which the appraisers under the road act had allowed him for the pulling down of his house in Prison Lane, now Market Street; which having been read, the house came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be rejected, on the principle that the valuation of the premises mentioned in the petition having been made by five indifferent freeholders, according to a provision in the New Providence road act.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Wednesday, 16th March, 1796.*

#### PRAYERS.

The deputy receiver general and treasurer attended at the bar, and laid before the house sundry bonds and warrants, received from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, late receiver general and treasurer; also the assessments for the eastern district for 1796, and a receipt for sixty-three pounds, twelve shillings, being for money in his hands belonging to the public.

On motion of Mr. Wylly, Ordered, That the messenger of this house, who executed the warrant issued by this house against the said Philip Dumaresq, esquire, on the 10th day of this instant March, do answer at his peril for the safe custody of the said Philip Dumaresq.

Ordered, That Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Begbie, and Mr. Webster, be a committee to examine the late treasurer's books and accounts, up to the day of resignation; and report thereon to this house.

A message from the council by the master in chancery, with the out island road bill, passed by that board; also the bill for appointing commissioners for stating and examining, &c. the public

the accounts, with one amendment thereto; and the bill to revive and continue the fee act, with several amendments thereto.

The house took the amendments to the said bills into consideration, and agreed to the same.

Mr. Wyll moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, the following resolution:

That his excellency the governor having on the 12th day of July 172, laid before this house, the following extract of a letter received by his excellency from the right honourable Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, to wit:

*"If on the production of the public accounts, it shall appear, that abuses have been committed in the expenditure, the remedy of an address to the king in council, is always in the power of the house:"*

And it appearing to this house, that great abuses have been committed in the expenditure of the public money, while Philip Dumaresq held the office of receiver general and treasurer of these islands, therefore Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up an humble address to his majesty in council, upon the subject of the aforesaid abuses.

The house divided.

For the question, 10—Mr. Wyll, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dean, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Begbie, Mr. Webster, Mr. Haven, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Dames, and Mr. Thomas Forbes.

Against the question, 8—Mr. O'Halloran, Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Eve, Mr. Carr, and Mr. North.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered, That Mr. Wyll, Mr. Kelfall, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Webster, be a committee to draw up an humble address to his majesty in council, agreeable to the foregoing resolution.

Mr. O'Halloran presented a petition from Philip Dumaresq, esquire, late receiver general and treasurer, now a prisoner in the common gaol in the town of Nassau, setting forth, that having incurred the displeasure of this house, by his refusal to deliver up the books, papers, bonds, and accounts, belonging to the public, in his custody; and acknowledging his error and indiscretion in refusing the same, and also his ill state of health, which renders his confinement dangerous and uncomfortable, and praying that the house will take his case into consideration, and permit him to be discharged from his said confinement.

The house took the petition into consideration, and ordered that the messenger who has the custody of the said Philip Dumaresq, do bring him to the bar of this house.

The said Philip Dumaresq having appeared at the bar accordingly, the speaker, by order of the house, was pleased to discharge him, upon payment of his fees; and he was discharged accordingly.

The house adjourned until to morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Thursday,*



*Thursday, 17th March, 1796.*

**PRAYERS.**

Mr. Wylly, from the committee appointed to draw up an humble address to his majesty in council, reported the same; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, where it was again read by the clerk.

Resolved, That the house do agree to the address.

Ordered, That the same be signed by the speaker, and forthwith transmitted to the colonial agent, by any five or more of the commissioners of correspondence, being members of this house; and that the agent be instructed to solicit the earliest opportunity of presenting the same in the most respectful manner to his majesty in council.

Yeas, — Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Wylly, Mr. Kelsall, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Pegbic, Mr. Dean, Mr. Dames, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Cunningham.

Nays, 7— Mr. Dugald Forbes, Mr. Haven, Mr. North, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Carr.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered, That a committee, consisting of 9 members of this house, being commissioners of correspondence, be appointed to correspond with and instruct the agent upon all matters relating either to the address to his majesty, or to the resolution and instructions voted by this house on Tuesday the 13th day of this instant March; that the aforesaid committee consist of Mr. Kelsall, Mr. Thomas Forbes, Mr. Haven, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dean, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Dames, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Wylly; and that any five of the aforesaid committee be a quorum to do business as well during the sitting as the recess of this house.

Ordered, That no person do presume to publish the address this day voted to his majesty, but by permission of this house.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning, half an hour after nine of the clock.

*Friday, 18th March, 1796.*

The house met, and adjourned until to-morrow.

*Saturday, 19th March, 1796.*

A message from his excellency the governor by the public secretary:

*Mr. Speaker,*

*His excellency the governor commands the immediate attendance of the house in the council chamber, with such bills as are ready for his assent.*

The house accordingly waited on his excellency the governor; and being returned, Mr. Speaker, from the chair, reported

ed that the house having waited on his excellency the governour, his excellency had been pleased to give his assent to the following bills, to wit :

" An act for the better ordering and disciplining the militia of these islands, and for suspending an act therein mentioned."

" An act for regulating the making and repairing of division walls or fences, in the island of New Providence."

" An act for reviving and continuing an act for regulating the fees of the public officers therein named."

" An act for reducing into one act all the laws now in force for making, amending, and repairing roads, highways, and streets, within the several islands and districts therein named ; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

" An act for the appropriation of certain sums of money therein mentioned, for and towards defraying the expences of this government."

And " An ordinance for allowing a salary to his excellency the governour."

And, that his excellency had been pleased to make a speech, of which the following is a copy :

*Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the house of assembly,*

*It is with no little satisfaction that I feel myself now enabled, by the termination of the public business, to put a period to this session. The laws that have passed, will I hope prove, by their good consequences and efficacy, that the long portion of time, which you have devoted to the concerns of the community, has not been improvidently applied.*

*In the mean time, let me intreat your attention to the highly important duties, which you have still to observe in the several islands and places of your residence, in encouraging exact obedience, and attention to the laws, and suppressing every tendency you may discover to disorder and licentiousness.*

*I do therefore you to Tuesday the 5th day of July next, and you are accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the 5th day of July next,*

DUNMORE:

Council chamber, March 15th, 1796.





